Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXI, Issue No. 164 | WEDNESDAY JULY 13, 2011 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

Associate commissioner Peter Le'au leaves PSS. PAGE 2
Tropical depression develops, may become typhoon. PAGE 3

'Bill will perpetuate apartheid-type status of alien workers'

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Human rights advocate and former CNMI teacher of the year Wendy Doromal is opposed to a bill introduced by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan giving a "CNMI-only resident status" for four specific groups of people in the CNMI, including foreign parents of U.S. citizens.

In the written testimony she will submit to a House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs public hearing on Sablan's H.R. 1466 on July 14, Doromal said the bill sets a dangerous precedent for states and territories who may also choose to preempt or tweak federal immigration laws to suit their own purposes.

See BILL on Page 4

'Nothing illegal about car leases'

PERRENNIAL PROBLEM
Broken refrigerators and computers as well as plastic bottles are scattered at the old runway in Koblerville, which has been turned into an illegal dumping site. Volunteer groups and the Saipan Mayor's Office have been regularly cleaning up the site of trash but people still keep throwing their garbage at the site.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Cabrera

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

From hauling trash to the Marpi landfill, to carrying picnic tables to rosaries and novenas, to ferrying Neighborhood Watch members from site to site. That's how ubiquitous and useful House Speaker Eli D. Cabrera's (Rep-Saipan) Ford Ranger pickup truck is to his constituents in Precinct 1.

See CAR on Page 4

Debris from Japanese tsunami drifting toward US

By PAUL ROGERS
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

SAN JOSE, Calif.—Millions of tons of debris that washed into the ocean during Japan's catastrophic earthquake and tsunami in March—everything from furniture to roofs to pieces of cars—are now moving steadily toward the United States and raising concerns about a potential environmental headache.

Scientists using computer models say the wreckage, which is scattered across hundreds of miles of the Pacific Ocean, is expected to reach Midway and the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands by next spring and beaches in California, Oregon and Washington in 2013 or early 2014.

"Can you imagine San Fran-

See DEBRIS on Page 4

Visit us online @ www.saipantribune.com

OPINION METER
This week's poll:
On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest, what's your level of confidence that rebates and refunds will be issued before the year ends?
Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Bus Crash
A cargo truck crashes into a canal in Bangladesh, killing 44 passengers.

ASIA...Page 15

Terrorist Hunter
In the hunt for bin Laden, there may have been no one more important than one CIA analyst.

FOCUS...Page 17

New Science
Scientists are seeking ways to take sting out of sunburns.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

NOW AVAILABLE!
TAGA SPORTS - JULY 2011 EDITION

Local

Associate commissioner Peter Le'au leaves PSS

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System will lose its associate commissioner for administration, Peter James Le'au, after the official decided to leave the system and file for disability retirement.

Le'au and Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan separately confirmed his departure with the *Saipan Tribune* this week.

Le'au opened the Saipan Southern High School in school year 2002-2003 as its principal, together with his former vice principal, Craig Garrison.

Garrison himself stepped down as principal of Marianas High School last week.

Le'au's post at the PSS central office was formerly occupied by David Borja, who was later appointed education commissioner to succeed the late Dr. Rita Inos. Since then, it remained vacant until Sablan came aboard as education commissioner in 2008. She named Le'au as new associate commissioner for administration and appointed Garrison as then principal for Saipan Southern High.

Le'au

Le'au's office handles the system's procurement and supply, E-Rate, pupil transportation, food and nutrition, and capital improvement project offices.

Le'au confirmed his retirement with the *Saipan Tribune* on Friday when he was seen at the NMI Retirement Fund office. It was learned that he once took a medical leave from PSS after suffering a stroke in 2009.

During Monday's principals' meeting at Laolao Bay Golf Resort, Sablan said nobody has been named yet to replace Le'au. She said the decision to fill the post will be consulted first with the Education Board.

Both board chair Marylou Ada and member Herman Guerrero hinted that filling the post may not be a priority at this time due to a funding shortfall. They said that Tim Thornburgh may be appointed to the position in an acting capacity, concurrent to his job as federal programs officer.

Saipan Tribune learned that Le'au was among the PSS employees who were issued 90-day notices as a result of failure to meet the highly qualified requirements of the Education Board.

'A *tough year ahead for* PSS'

The Public School System will be facing a "tough year" when classes open on Sept. 5 due to the expected funding shortfall for both programs and operation, according to Board of Education chair Marylou Ada.

"Funding is very critical this new school year so we're asking [PSS administrators and employees] to be innovative and creative while we're searching for other avenues to continue all our programs," she said.

She vowed, however, not to jeopardize the quality of education being provided public school students.

"Our SAT-10 scores are going up… and we want to continue that. It's a very challenging year and it will take a lot of team work. Our funds from the feds are also slowly depleting so we need to be careful in spending it [and] not sacrifice the quality of education for our kids," she said.

Herman T. Guerrero, chair of the fiscal and personnel affairs committee, said the proposed $30 million budget for public schools in fiscal year 2012 may not be realized due to declining government revenue. The Fitial administration earlier estimated government revenue to reach only $102 million this new fiscal year.

Guerrero also disclosed that under the proposed consolidated grant under Title 6, which will use Title regulations, funding may not be available for private schools due to strict requirements that funds will be used only for low-income enrollees.

"So it may not be business-as-usual for private schools because Title I is strictly for low-income kids. This will pose additional challenge to our private schools," he added. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

Garrison's resignation surprises House education chair

The lawmaker that called for a hearing on Marianas High School principal Craig Garrison's management and leadership style expressed surprise with the principal's decision to resign.

"Honestly, it was not really what I wanted. I feel sorry for the guy that he resigned. All the committee wanted was the truth. I was hoping that he would to testify so we could analyze which group is telling the truth," said House Education Committee chair Raymond Palacios (Cov-Saipan) yesterday.

Palacios, who held hearings on June 3 and July 6 to address accusations made by former MHS teacher James Yangetmai against Garrison, said his committee was not really pushing for the MHS principal's ouster.

"I never intended [for] him to resign. I don't want him to blame us. If only PSS authorized him to testify maybe we could have tried to address the matter and come up with a resolution," he said.

As for what happens next, Palacios said he is not sure and that he will leave it up to the committee to decide. He added that Yangetmai recently called him to suggest that issues at MHS have not been not resolved even after Garrison's resignation.

"I need to schedule a meeting with committee members and get a consensus first. I cannot decide on my own. Mr. Yangetmai said he still has some concerns but I told him to go to PSS first. I told him we respect PSS' autonomy. If nothing is done and everything is falling on deaf ears, that's when we could step in," said Palacios.

Garrison's resignation will take effect Sept. 1. He will be replaced at MHS by vice principal Cherlyn Cabrera.

"I feel bad because he has a family and mouths to feed. We just wanted to get the truth and that's it," said Palacios. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Luhk's disappearance enters 7th week

Public Safety Commissioner Ramon C. Mafnas said yesterday that police officers continue to focus on the investigation aspect of the disappearance of sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk.

Mafnas said searches will also continue in selected sites only. He did not elaborate.

"DPS encourages witnesses, or anyone, with information to come forward. Witnesses, or anyone with information can call 911 or 234-7272 to provide information," Mafnas said.

Upon request, Mafnas said, DPS will protect witnesses or informants of their identity, if they choose to remain anonymous.

The disappearance of 10-year-old Faloma and 9-year-old Maleina marks its seventh week today, Wednesday. The girls were reportedly last seen near the bus stop pavilion in As Teo last May 25. A $50,000 cash reward has been put up for information on the whereabouts of the girls. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Get your FREE copy of

TAGA SPORTS

JULY 2011 EDITION AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

99 Cents, Best Seller, Capricciosa, CHC Gift Shop, Ebisuya, Garapan Market, Han Nam, Happy Market (As Lito & Garapan), Himawari, I-Mart, Joeten (Dandan, Garapan, Kagman & Susupe), Kagman Market, Mobil (Chalan Piao, Kagman, Middle Road & Susupe), Payless Supermarket, San Antonio Supermarket, San Jose Market, San Roque Market, Sara Market, Shell (Airport, Dandan, Gualo Rai, Highway Express, Koblerville, Puerto Rico, San Roque & Susupe), Shirley's Coffee Shop (Garapan & Susupe), Super Fresh Market, Tony Roma's, Twins Supermaket (Dandan & Puerto Rico), and New XO Market.

Thank you to all our advertisers, contributors, sports organizations, and sports personalities.

Detainee's plea for medical help allegedly ignored

Wei Lin, a man in detention for allegedly obtaining a driver's license fraudulently, has been discharging blood due to severe abdominal pain but his pleas for medical help have fallen on deaf ears, according to his lawyer.

Joseph James Norita Camacho, counsel for Lin, yesterday notified the U.S. District Court for the NMI that he has made repeated verbal, written, and email requests to the U.S. Attorney's Office to have his client receive medical assistance.

"To date, Lin has yet to receive any medical assistance to determine what is causing the severe abdominal pain and the bloody discharges," said Camacho in a motion for medical assistance.

Camacho said the court-appointed interpreter/translator is willing to assist to ensure clear and complete information when Lin is examined by a doctor.

Lin, a Chinese national, is charged with two counts of document fraud and a count of false statements to a federal agent. He has been in federal custody awaiting trial since his arrest in April 2011.

Camacho said the defendant has been experiencing severe abdominal pain for several months now, including the time of his present detention at the Department of Corrections in Susupe.

The abdominal pain, Camacho said, is so severe that it is causing Lin to discharge blood in his bowel movements.

The lawyer said he made a written request to DOC for medical assistance. He said a DOC nurse, with the assistance of an inmate acting as a translator, had examined Lin.

"No medication or remedy was prescribed and Lin continues to suffer severe abdominal pain," Camacho said.

The lawyer said that, according to DOC, it is the U.S. Marshals that must bring Lin to a health center or clinic to obtain medical assistance since he is under federal custody. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Tropical depression develops, may become typhoon

A tropical depression has developed east of the Marianas and was predicted to become a typhoon last night, possibly bringing damaging winds to the northern islands later this week.

The National Weather Service in Guam advised residents of Agrihan, Pagan, and Alamagan yesterday to closely monitor the progress of Tropical Depression 08W that had maximum sustained winds at 35 miles per hour.

NMS said a deviation to the left of the current forecast track could still bring damaging winds to the northern islands later this week.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos said that, although no watches or warning are in effect, residents of Pagan and Alamagan should closely monitor the progress of Tropical Depression 08W.

At 7am, the center of Tropical Depression O8W was located about 610 miles east of Pagan and Alamagan, 615 miles east of Agrihan, 675 miles east-northeast of Saipan, and 785 miles east-northeast of Guam.

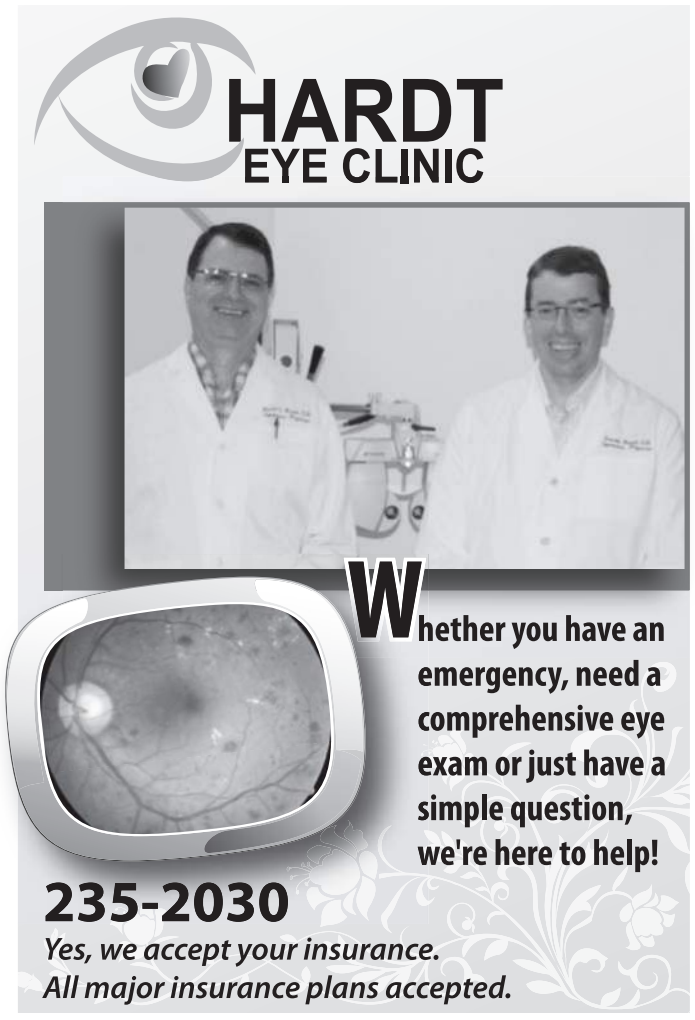
NWS said the tropical depression has been drifting west-northwest at 12 mph and that this motion is expected to continue through today, Wednesday.

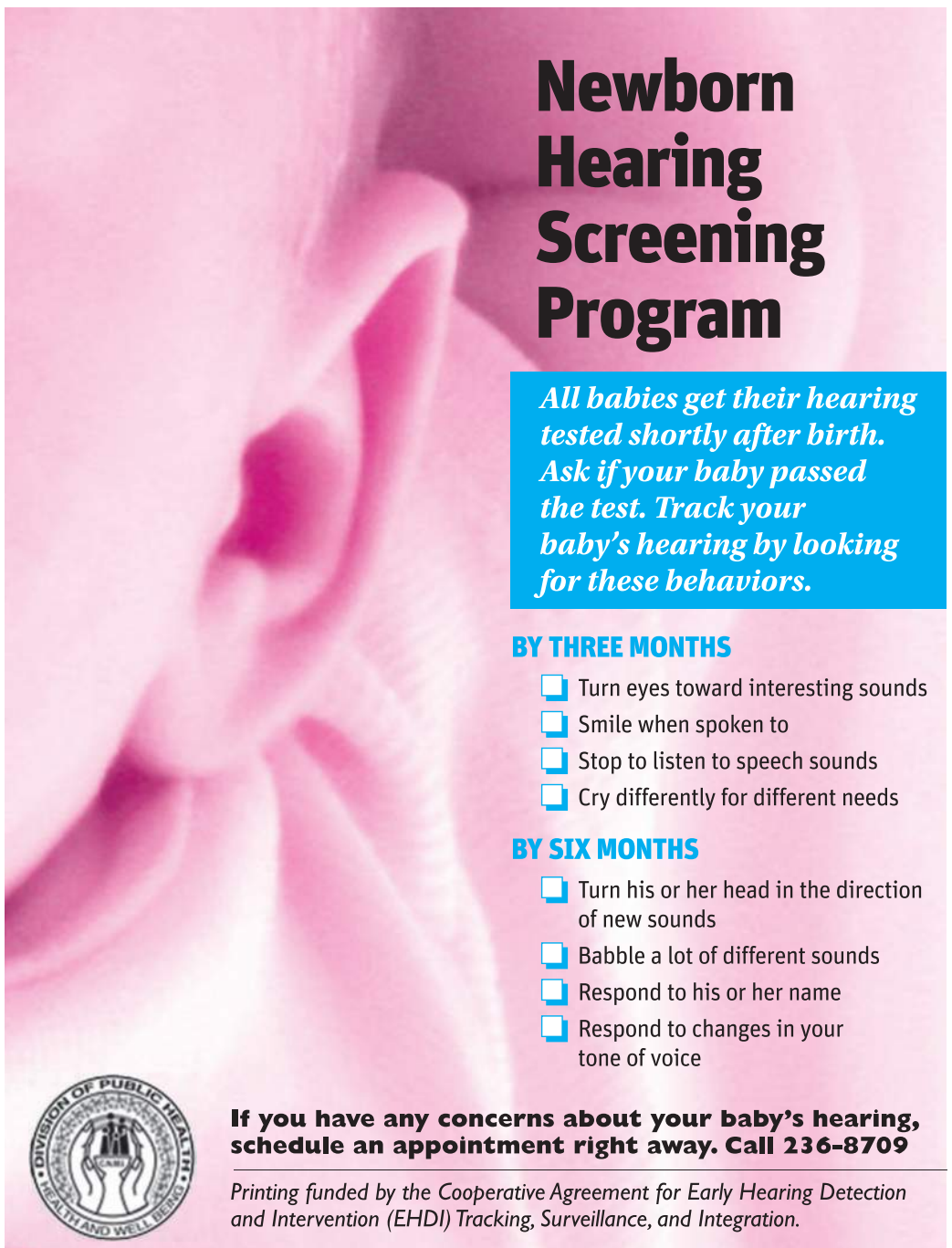
At 1am yesterday, the tropical depression's center was 735 miles east of Agrihan, Pagan, and Alamagan.

The NWS forecast is that the tropical depression may be centered 250 miles north of Agrihan by Thursday night as a minimal typhoon.

"While damaging winds are expected to remain well to the north of the islands, periods of heavy rain, gusty southwest winds and hazardous surf are possible Thursday through Friday," NWS said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

YTT GOLD Jewelry
元通金行
Visit YTT Gold Jewelry today
Exchange your unwanted, damage, outdated and worn Gold for CASH!
10k, 14k, 18k, Silver Jewelry, Platinum, Coins, Bullion and more...
Bring any of this items of GOLD to our store in Garapan
Our Consultants will test and value you GOLD items
We will give you CASH on the spot!
Tel. No.: 233-2368
Business Hours
10:00am - 8:00pm
Sunday Closed
Located behind Duty Free and Star Sands Plaza
GARAPAN, BEACH ROAD
HARD ROCK CAFE
DFS GALERIA
CAR PARK
STAR SANDS PLAZA
D'ELEGANCE CAFE
CAR PARK
GOLD
PANDA STORE


HARDT
EYE CLINIC
Whether you have an emergency, need a comprehensive eye exam or just have a simple question, we're here to help!
235-2030
Yes, we accept your insurance.
All major insurance plans accepted.


Newborn Hearing Screening Program
All babies get their hearing tested shortly after birth. Ask if your baby passed the test. Track your baby's hearing by looking for these behaviors.
BY THREE MONTHS
Turn eyes toward interesting sounds
Smile when spoken to
Stop to listen to speech sounds
Cry differently for different needs
BY SIX MONTHS
Turn his or her head in the direction of new sounds
Babble a lot of different sounds
Respond to his or her name
Respond to changes in your tone of voice
If you have any concerns about your baby's hearing, schedule an appointment right away. Call 236-8709
Printing funded by the Cooperative Agreement for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Tracking, Surveillance, and Integration.

As a Summer Treat, the Dental Clinic is offering Free Oral Health Education and Fluoride Varnish Treatment
WHO
WIC children ages 1 to 5 years old
WHEN
July 5-September 2, 2011
Monday through Friday
8:30am to 4:00pm
(Except Austerity Friday)
WHERE
WIC Program Clinic in Saipan
So when you are visiting the WIC program on these days, we encourage you to take this wonderful opportunity during your appointment. So do not forget to bring your kids!
For more information, please call 664-4084
WIC
WOMEN • INFANTS • CHILDREN
These services will be provided by the staff of the Department of Public Health, Dental Clinic
"WIC is an equal opportunity employer and provider."

BILL

From Page 1

"Do we really want to see 'Florida-only' status, 'Arizona-only' status or other states and territories creating separate status categories to push their self-serving political agendas so that they can maintain a permanently disenfranchised underclass?" she asked in her written testimony.

Doromal, who will personally attend the hearing, insists that H.R. 1466's proposed new "CNMI-only" immigration status is a "separatist, apartheid-type status" that would continue the "persistent exploitation of foreign workers" under federal rule.

"Under H.R. 1466, only those legal nonresident workers who would qualify eventually to upgrade their status under current INA categories could obtain an improved status. These groups are only those with spouses that are U.S. citizens and those who are parents of U.S. citizens. Such nonresident workers could either be petitioned by their U.S. citizen spouses at any time, or petitioned by their U.S. citizen children when those children reach the age of 21, as the INA provides. However, thousands of other legal, long-term workers would not qualify for this status or any status under H.R. 1466," she said.

Doromal, who now lives in Florida, said she is arguing against claims that the H.R. 1466 aims "to keep families from being broken apart."

"The truth is that since the bill provides security for only families that have a family member who is a U.S. citizen, excluding thousands of other families, this is not a valid argument. It excludes nonresident 'families' in which both parents are nonresident workers with no U.S. citizen children and families in which the married nonresident workers are childless. It excludes nonresident workers who are gay. It excludes nonresident workers who live and work in the CNMI and support their families who remain in their homelands. These distant families are hoping that the difficult and lengthy separation from fathers, mothers, or spouses will be worth it if the family member is granted permanent residency," she said.

The July 14 hearing will be at 10am in Room 1324 of Longworth House Office Building in Washington, D.C.

United Workers Movement-NMI president Rabby Syed said his group will monitor the subcommittee hearing via Internet on July 14 starting midnight beside the U.S. Department of Homeland Security office at the TSL Plaza.

Syed earlier said that the United Workers Movement does not support Sablan's H.R. 1466 because it does not cover foreign workers who have been in the CNMI for years or decades.

Syed reiterated the group's position, asking the federal government to provide "green card" or a pathway to U.S. citizenship for long-term foreign workers in the CNMI.

He said the bill will be unfair to many long-term foreign workers, including those who have been in the CNMI legally for over 20 years, for example, and do not have U.S. citizen children.

Sablan's H.R. 1466 proposes a "CNMI-only resident status" for immediate relatives of U.S. citizens as of May 8, 2008, and continuing to be on the islands, CNMI permanent residents, those born in the CNMI between Jan. 1, 1974 and Jan. 9, 1978, and the spouses or children, "as defined in section 101(b)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(b)(1)), of an alien described in subclauses (I) or (II)."

Aside from H.R. 1466, the House subcommittee will also tackle the implementation of U.S. Public Law 110-229, or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act, which placed CNMI immigration under federal control.

CAR

From Page 1

That's why Lisa Matagolai is very appreciative of Cabrera's help and attests to how the speaker's leased vehicle has made life easier in their village.

"If someone dies and there is a rosary, the speaker is always there to help. Also people with handicap and people who need their trash thrown at the landfill, the speaker and his staff are always there to assist," she said.

For her, transportation provided by Cabrera's leased pickup is one of his biggest contributions to the community.

"Whoever is thinking of taking these leased vehicles away, I don't think it is right. I suggest the governor and the Legislature first look into government agencies using luxury vehicles instead of using these for community service," said Matagolai.

With backing from constituents like Matagolai, Cabrera led a number of lawmakers who yesterday justified with the *Saipan Tribune* their use of taxpayer-paid leased vehicles.

Cabrera said lawmakers are doing nothing illegal when they pay $400 to $700 in car leases each month.

"We get members allocation—a budget. We are entitled to use the money the way we see fit to operate the office," he said.

Besides, the $4,800 to $8,400 a year allocated for automobile rentals is a small drop in the bucket, considering that each lawmaker gets more than $70,000 each year for office operational expenses.

Cabrera said he doesn't even drive the leased truck, opting to use his own private car to commute from his house to work and back to dispense his official functions at the Legislature.

"I let my community workers use the pickup truck. That's day and night, including weekends. If somebody dies, they call my house. If they need someone to throw garbage to the landfill they call, 'Mr. Speaker, can you help us throw our trash.' We also deliver picnic tables to rosaries, novenas. …Any given time they ask us for something, we are there to help," he said.

Cabrera said his Toyota Matrix could just not do the job of a Ford Ranger, hence his decision to lease the vehicle.

"When you lease a car, deep down in your heart you want to do something to your community. Not to drive an SUV [sport utility vehicle]. Not to drive a luxury car," said Cabrera. "I'm one of the members that's leasing one of the least expensive vehicles. You cannot find anything under $500 at Joeten Motors. You can find others renting $700, but I don't need a $700 car. I just need a pickup."

He said he also owns two trailers that he hooks up to the pickup truck, increasing the car's capacity to haul garbage and other materials for the precinct.

Rep. Ray Yumul (Rep-Saipan) pointed out that if lawmakers leasing cars is against the law, Procurement & Supply would have disapproved it and the Department of Finance wouldn't have processed the payment. Yumul himself doesn't use his allocation to lease a car. Instead, he uses his own Toyota Rav4 to carry out his official duties.

Rep. Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) said that lawmakers leasing vehicles is the Legislature's way of stimulating the private sector.

"Imagine the money we're giving the car dealers because of car leases," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "What difference does it [car leases] make? We're getting the same allotment. The fact is, it's the same amount all of us are spending."

For his part, Rep. Raymond Palacios (Cov-Saipan) said he uses his taxpayer-paid leased vehicle to and from work. He also sometimes lends it to his secretary and community worker.

Like Cabrera, Palacios said there's nothing wrong with car leases as long as they are within the congressman's budget and is used for work.

For Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb (R-Saipan) he justified his use of a Nissan truck in his efforts to promote and improve sports and cultural tourism in the CNMI.

"As you may already be aware I am presently the president of NMA [Northern Marianas Athletics] under the OAA [Oceania Athletic Association] affiliated with IAAF [International Association of Athletics Federations]. We receive financial and other OAA and IAAF regional and international developmental opportunities," he said.

Tebuteb also said he is a board member of a non-profit team (a 501c3) with the mission of tourism development in the CNMI. He said they also avail grant opportunities to foster their goals and objectives.

"Recently, we were able to partner with our Russian and Korean filmmaking promoters to promote the spirit of the CNMI. It's an ongoing community involvement of this office," he said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

DEBRIS

From Page 1

cisco put through a shredder? A big grinder?" said Curtis Ebbesmeyer, a Seattle oceanographer who has studied marine debris for more than 20 years.

"The area north of Tokyo was basically shredded. We are going to see boats, parts of homes, lots of plastic bottles, chair cushions, kids' toys, everything."

The debris is moving east at roughly 10 miles a day, and is spread over an area about 350 miles wide and 1,300 miles long—an area roughly the size of California—Ebbesmeyer estimates, with the leading edge approaching the international date line.

While lots of the material will break up and sink, some will not, he said.

"I've seen pieces of wood float for 20 or 30 years," he said. "I have Jeep tires with wheels that floated for 30 years. Things float a lot longer than you think."

Complicating the issue, nobody knows for sure the exact area where the debris is spread or its density. And nobody knows what is still floating, what has sunk, or what may be lurking just below the surface. That's because estimates are based on computer models of currents and winds, rather than actual observations from scientists in boats and planes. After ships with the Navy's 7th Fleet reported and photographed the debris, researchers with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Hawaii tracked the refuse with satellites for a month after the March 11 quake and tsunami.

But by April 14, as it spread over a wider area, it could no longer be detected with the resolution of the satellites that NOAA uses.

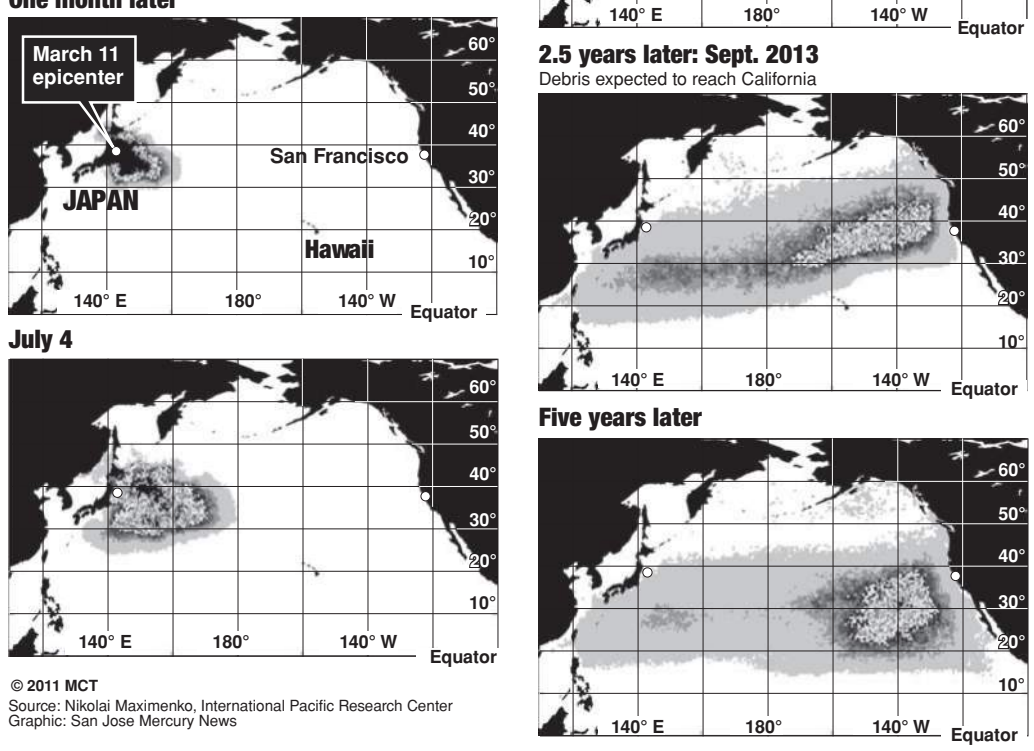
"Right after the earthquake we saw huge amounts of wood and fishing gear and households in the water," said Kris McElwee, Pacific islands coordinator for NOAA's marine debris program in Honolulu. "And then we saw for a few weeks these kind of stringers of wood patches. But they are dispersed enough now that you can't see them on satellite images. So we don't know what has sunk and what's still floating out there."

McElwee noted that after other major disasters, including Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004, massive amounts of material that washed out to sea did not turn up on beaches in other countries. Instead, the flotsam caused problems near the beaches where it originated, creating hazards for ships and disrupting commercial fishing.

Still, the currents in every part of the ocean are different, and federal officials are watching the Japanese debris with concern.

On June 27, representatives from the Coast Guard, NOAA, the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. State Department and other agencies met for the first time in Honolulu to share information about the Japanese debris and begin to chart a strategy.

Among their plans: to notify the U.S. Navy and commercial shipping companies that regularly sail across the Pacific so they can begin to document what is floating. That could lead to expeditions to go map and study it.


Reaching California?
Millions of pounds of debris that washed out to sea during the March 11 Japanese tsunami are moving across the Pacific. Computer models estimate the junk — which is not in one continuous mass, but spread over hundreds of miles — could reach California by 2013 or early 2014.
One month later
March 11 epicenter
JAPAN
San Francisco
Hawaii
July 4
One year later
2.5 years later: Sept. 2013
Debris expected to reach California
Five years later
60°
50°
40°
30°
20°
10°
140° E
180°
140° W
Equator
© 2011 MCT
Source: Nikolai Maximenko, International Pacific Research Center
Graphic: San Jose Mercury News

But the Pacific Ocean is vast. The area between Japan and Hawaii is roughly 3,800 miles of open ocean—twice the distance from San Francisco to Chicago. Even more daunting, NOAA scientists have calculated that to survey 1 million square kilometers—roughly 1 percent of the North Pacific Ocean—would take 68 ships sailing 10 hours a day for one year.

"If this was an oil spill that was moving toward the coast, there would be a lot more attention," said Jared Blumenfeld, the EPA's regional administrator for California, Hawaii, the Pacific islands, Nevada and Arizona.

"We want to educate people on what is happening," he said. "We need to be prepared and work out what we can do to prevent it from coming ashore and then clean up as much as we can when it does come ashore."

McElwee said it is highly unlikely that the debris is radioactive because the tsunami swept it out to sea before the Fukushima nuclear plant melted down. Dead bodies in the refuse would decompose and sink, Ebbesmeyer said, but there is a possibility of some macabre discoveries, like feet in tennis shoes, which have washed up before on Northwest beaches and have been linked with DNA tests to missing persons who drowned.

In some cases, large objects floating near beaches or harbors could be fished out of the water. NOAA removes tons of fishing gear every year from coral reefs off the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, for example. But most experts say the ocean is so vast that the best that can be done is to wait and watch, and clean up beaches if and when it hits California and other states.

University of Hawaii computer models show that after 2014, the debris will end up in the "North Pacific Garbage Patch," a vast area roughly 1,000 miles west of California where plastic debris accumulates and breaks into tiny pieces over time.

"We've got a marine debris problem," McElwee said. "This is a great opportunity to focus on it. But it is an ongoing problem. Whatever percent has been added by this tragedy, we need to all work together to solve it."

Judge authorizes 48 jobless aliens to seek work

»Labor consents, moves to dismiss workers' appeals

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court on Monday dismissed the appeals filed by 48 jobless alien workers who were assisted by the federal ombudsman and attorney Stephen C. Woodruff after the Department of Labor agreed to grant them permission to seek work in the CNMI.

In granting Labor's motion to dismiss the appeals, associate judge David Wiseman gave the 48 alien workers authority to seek work in the Commonwealth.

Wiseman said the workers' current umbrella permits will be reclassified by Labor from "case pending" to "240K, work authorized" as of Monday, July 11, 2011. The expiration date and next filing date is Nov. 27, 2011.

"This shall be done by administrative action at the Department of Labor and no action on the part of the [workers] is required," said Wiseman in separate orders.

Assistant attorney general Meredith R. Callan, on behalf of Labor, moved to dismiss the appeals filed by the workers against Labor. Callan attached with the motion Labor hearing officer Deanne C. Siemer's request to dismiss the pending Labor cases against the workers.

The workers had sought permission to work in the CNMI, but Labor's hearing officer denied it. The Labor secretary affirmed the hearing officer's denial.

The workers, with the assistance of the federal ombudsman and Woodruff, each filed a petition for review by the Superior Court of Labor's adverse orders.

In each of these cases, Siemer said the petitioner is a former garment worker, domestic helper, security guard, or person who held similar employment and who had been out of work for such a long time that Labor refused further extensions of time to transfer. Siemer said no wage claims or any other damages claims are involved.

"None of these petitioners appears to have made any false statement to the department, committed any other fraud, or filed any frivolous action or claim," she said.

Siemer said Labor's reasons for making the request to dismiss the appeals are the following:

■ It appears from the record that the work authorization is the only relief petitioners are seeking from this court.

■ Some of these cases have been pending for a considerable amount of time at Labor and in the court, and these appellants face an uncertain work situation for as long as these cases are pending.

■ The resolution of these cases does not adversely impact the overall interests of the Commonwealth in full enforcement of its laws.

■ At this time, the Office of the Attorney General and Labor have very significantly diminished resources, both personnel and funding, and must use those limited resources as prudently and wisely as possible.

There are few other similar appeals filed by workers pending in court and may be dismissed too after a status conference is completed.

Board approves PSS technology plan

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of Education has approved the Public School System's educational technology plan, which aims to secure $7.4 million in funding to support the completion of the system's network upgrades in the next three years.

The 87-page plan covers school years 2012 through 2015. It is expected to be signed today by acting governor Eloy Inos.

Based on the plan, PSS expects to complete all network upgrades by 2015. That will include an overall network restructure, activation of additional bandwidth, and replacement of current video teleconferencing equipment.

In addition, the system will also install a central wireless system at all junior and high school and will implement a longitudinal database system to improve the quality and accessibility of federal and local reporting needs.

The educational technology plan needs $2.477 million in the first year of implementation—or $7.432 million total cost for three years. PSS is eyeing federal funds for the plan.

PSS recognizes that appropriate use of educational technology contributes to student information literacy. Among its goals and objectives is to promote and support data collection systems to guide decision making and align the use of technology standards with the nationally recognized technology standards to ensure effective use of current technology in an ever-changing field and adaptability into the global arena.

"The essential goal of the PSS Technology Plan are founded on improving student academic achievement through the use of technology in elementary and secondary schools, Head Start, and special programs," said PSS.

Under its technology plan, the system expects 95 percent of teachers, administrators, and support staff to be proficient in the use of technology for instruction, assessment, and productivity by 2015.

Saipan Tribune learned that the plan is based on the BOE-approved CNMI Technology Program standards and benchmarks; International Society for Technology in Education; and CNMI State Board of Education instructional goals.

Last school year PSS gave all its junior and high school students netbooks under its One-Laptop-Per Child project, which were funded by a portion from the state fiscal stabilization fund and the consolidated grant for the current fiscal year.

For the new school year, the system announced that it will also provide netbooks to all incoming seventh graders.

4 NMI students get superior rating in int'l thespian festival

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Four students from Northern Marianas public schools received overall superior ratings during the recent International Thespian Festival held in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Hopwood Junior High School student Mikhail Alcantara got into the nation's Top 6 in the monologue competition while Marianas High School students Salvi Villanueva was in the Top 8 in film. MHS' John Darag and Rochelle Dimapilis both finished Top 10 in solo musical and set design respectively.

Harold Easton, ITS Pacific chapter director, told *Saipan Tribune* that the CNMI team—composed of about 33 students from sixth grade to 12th grade—performed extremely well during the international festival late last month. He described this year's outcome as "a major shift to the positive" because all participants finished with higher ranks than in previous years.

Alcantara

Villanueva

The CNMI has been sending delegates to the event for eight years now.

This year's team was composed of students from five public schools on Saipan: MHS, Saipan Southern High School, Kagman High, Hopwood Junior High, and San Antonio Elementary School.

Saipan Tribune learned that Alcantara was among the contenders who received a "call back" from judges for a repeat performance. This was his first time to participate in the competition. A call back is only issued in select categories such as monologue, solo musical, mime, and group musical contests.

For film, Villanueva competed against 17 other student filmmakers. He is the video production club president of his school and is a recipient of several recognitions and awards in various video and film production contests on island.

John Darag, also an MHS student, was the gold medal winner during the regional thespian competition on island, which earned him the slot to be on the national team.

Others who received high ratings are Stephanie Lumbad/Mary Jane Pepito from San Antonio Elementary School, who emerged Top 8 in the nation for mime duet; MHS' Jorem Guardian, who was in the Top 10 in mime solo; MHS' Craig Hart, who finished Top 18 for set design; MHS' Rozette Bunao, who was also in the Top 18 for costume design; and the group musical, which broke into the Top 20.

The tandem of Christine Aninzo and Annabel Manzo of Hopwood Junior High was in the Top 40 for duet acting while KHS' tandem of Akeiko Dela Cruz and Nicole Sablan finished Top 40 for duet acting.

Students who finished in other ranks included Jennella Nelmida of Hopwood, Top 80 for solo musical; MHS' Chiantee Rosete, Top 80 in monologue; and Hopwood's Rhea Banados, Top 80 for monologue. Anna Rose Deleon Guerrero from Saipan Southern High School also got into the top half for monologue.

Easton said the international thespian festival saw the involvement of over 500 competitors from various U.S. states.

The CNMI team also performed three plays during the festival, attended numerous workshops and plays, and students were provided opportunities to audition for school theater clubs of some colleges and universities.

Call-A-Ride under new management

The Call-A-Ride program is now managed and operated by August Healthcare Group, LLC, which does business as Saint Michael's Medical Response, in cooperation with the CNMI Council for Developmental Disabilities.

The program now has a new name and is called the Call-A-Ride Saipan.

"We encourage all individuals in the community that have limitations and/or restrictions using regular passenger vehicles but need to attend functions and/or other community-related activities to contact the program office through its main office at 233-4585, the program manager at 989-7433 (RIDE), or via email callaridesaipan@gmail.com.

The program's new office is the former YCO Motorsports warehouse in Garapan on the corner of Kadena Di Amor Street and Chichirica Avenue.

Existing riders are urged to call or email Call-A-Ride Saipan to update their information and ensure that all necessary information about their status is current. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

AUTISM AWARENESS
The National Honor Society Alliance hosts the first ever Autism Awareness Walkathon at the CPA field. The purpose of this walkathon was to raise funds to help spread awareness of autism in the CNMI. The NHS Alliance used these funds to order a one-year subscription of Autism Asperger's *Digest Magazine* for CHC, WIC, Joeten Kiyu Library, CDAC, Pacific Medical Center, Marianas Medical Center, Saipan Health Clinic, Medical Associates in the Pacific, SDA, Modern Solutions, LLC a.k.a. Dr. Hocog's Clinic, and Take Care Health Clinic. The group will donate the remaining funds to the Autism Society, who they worked closely with while planning and preparing for the walkathon. The NHS Alliance's sponsors are Kautz Glass, IT&E, Craig Garrison, Elizabeth Balajadia, PE, HBR International, Herman's Bakery, Tan Holdings, Saipan Southern High School, Marianas High School, Kagman High School, Grace Christian Academy, and Mount Carmel School.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Dog licensing resumes

The Office of the Mayor of Saipan has reopened its dog control program, "Dog Tag License Registration," this week, from July 11 to 22.

Registration will take place at the Mayor of Saipan compound in Chalan Kanoa (behind the post office) from 9am to 4pm (open during lunch hours).

Pet owners are advised to first pay the fees at either the CNMI Treasury on Capital Hill, Superior Court in Susupe, or Tax and Revenue in Dandan then proceed to the registration site. Applications are available at the cashiers. Fill out the application per dog to expedite the process. ***(PR)***

Air Force, Navy training on FDM, Warning Area-517

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on the following dates and times:

- July 11-14, from 1pm to 3am
- July 15, from 8am to 10pm

The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 (W-517) on July 12-13, from 8:30am to 4:30pm.

The public, especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. ***(USN)***

Veterans employment coordinator to conduct workshops

Guam Department of Labor Disable Veterans Outreach Program coordinator Jackie Nguyen will be conducting employment information workshops from July 14 to 20 in the CNMI. The DVOP is responsible for Guam, the CNMI, and American Samoa. She will also be available to meet with veterans and family members individually to answer questions.

Nguyen's schedule is as follows:

- July 14-16 on Saipan from 9am to 4pm at the WIA office in Capital Hill
- July 14, on Saipan from 7am to 9am, VFW at the VFW headquarters
- July 17-18 on Tinian from 9am to 4pm at the Tinian Municial Council's Office
- July 19-20 on Rota, 9am-4pm at the WIA Office.

For further information, contact Bernie B. Dela Cruz at the Office of Military/ Veterans affairs at 664-2650. ***(PR)***

Veterans outreach on July 25-29

Tina San Agustin, Federal Department of Veterans Affairs Legal Administrative Specialist from Guam and the Northern Marian Islands, will be on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota from July 25 to 29 for Veterans Outreach on Veterans Federal Benefits.

She will be also be entertaining veterans questions and assist with claims. Agustin's schedule is a follows:

- July 25, 8:30am-4:30pm on Rota at the WIA office
- July 26-27, 8:30-4:30 on Tinian at the Tinian Municipal Council's office
- July 28-29, 8:30-4:30 on Saipan at the Military/ Veterans Affairs office on Capitol Hill, building 1364.

If you wish to make an appointment or for further information, contact Bernie B. Dela Cruz at the Office of Military/ Veterans affairs at 664-2650. ***(PR)***

Hopwood grade 6 and 7 open registration set

The open registration for seventh and eighth grade levels of Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Jr. High School is set from July 11 to July 29. Parents and guardians of enrolling students should provide the school with all the necessary documents to avoid any problem in the processing of their child's enrollment. Any new or transfer students must also provide proper documents to prevent any delay in their processing. For more information, contact the school at 237-3422/3395/3421. ***(PR)***

Enrollment info for Kagman High

To all returning Kagman High School students, parents and guardians: All students must register anew for school year 2011-2012, even if you went to KHS this last school year. The school is updating its records and everyone must re-register or they will not receive a class schedule for the school year. Register before Aug. 19 for optimum scheduling. Registration forms can be picked up from the registrar or in the main office. For more information, call 237 3840 or 237 3886. ***(PR)***

Registrations ongoing at Green Meadow School

Registrations for school year 2011-2012 for kindergarten (K3 to K5) and elementary (1st to 6th Grades) are ongoing at Green Meadow School. Contact us at tel. 235-2185, or 234-0898 or e-mail us at green_meadow07@yahoo.com or gms.saipan@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

NMI has 34 licensed child care centers

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs reports that there are 34 licensed child care centers in the Commonwealth, majority of which are eligible to receive funding support from the federal Child Care Development Funds.

DCCA Secretary Melvin Faisao said the total is based on the agency's May 2011 records. He disclosed that 33 of these licensed centers are on Saipan while only one is on Rota.

Department records also show that DCCA has a total of 10 relative care providers, of which seven are on Saipan, two are on Tinian; and one is on Rota.

Of the 34 licensed child care centers, only 22 are under the CCDF program, serving an estimated 480 children, Faisao said.

Funding remains a major challenge for the child care program in the Commonwealth.

Faisao disclosed that for the next three fiscal years, the federal program is proposed to receive only $1.7 million for operation—the same amount it got in fiscal year 2008.

The Child Care Development Fund is used to subsidize care services for eligible families. Parents may select a child care provider that satisfies all federal and local requirements, including basic health and safety standards. These requirements also address prevention and control of infectious diseases, including immunizations; building and physical premises safety, and minimum health and safety training.

Based on the program's federal guidelines, CNMI must use 8 percent of the CCDF to also improve the quality of activities of child care centers such as resource and referral counseling.

Fund consultant pushes for change in asset allocation

» More conservative approach for investments eyed

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund's investment consultant is pushing for some changes in how the Fund currently invests its assets in the wake of a court order that requires the pension program to set aside a fixed amount for its beneficiaries.

Wilshire Associates wants a "more conservative" approach in the Fund's asset allocation model and in how it will invest the Fund's assets, according to Fund legal counsel Christopher Timmons in his report to the board Friday.

Maggie Ralbovsky, managing director and principal of Wilshire Associates, declined, however, to comment on its recommendation, saying the company will be making a presentation at the upcoming semi-annual meeting next month.

"I cannot respond to your question at this time since the board has not reviewed the details. I plan to visit Saipan at the mid/end of August to meet with the trustees," Ralbovsky told *Saipan Tribune* in an email yesterday.

Only after the board has evaluated the situation will details of the recommendation be shared, she added.

Wilshire is expected to discuss its full recommendation on Aug. 22 and 23.

In October last year, the board was presented with three options on the strategies its money managers will use in handling the Fund's investment portfolio: conservative-alternative, moderate-alternative, and aggressive-alternative.

The board chose the moderate-alternative approach, which involves a more aggressive strategy but with a slight risk. Board members said that, although a bit riskier, this approach seeks to obtain a higher return for the Fund's investments.

During Friday's board meeting, Timmons reported that Wilshire's new recommendation is to use a more conservative approach, in order to comply with the Superior Court's set-aside order. If the board adopts Wilshire's new recommendation, the new asset allocation may be the conservative-alternative option.

As of June 30 this year, the Fund's investment portfolio was valued at an estimated $311 million. Common stocks account for 65 percent; fixed income, 27 percent; hedge fund, 6 percent; and money market, 2 percent.

Just recently, the board selected new money managers that will handle the Fund's investments. According to Timmons, their contracts are now being processed and reviewed.

From nine money managers, the Fund now has 14 companies handling its investments.

Saipan Tribune learned that fiscal year 2008 was considered the worst year on record for the market and, like other retirement and pension plans, the Fund lost a considerable amount. In 2001, the Fund also experienced a 20-percent drop in its investment assets and 10 percent during the Asian crisis in 1990s.

The Fund needs about $860 million in its investment fund to be fully funded by 2045. The current $311 million is only about 36 percent of the needed amount.

yes! You can double the money you send

2 WEEKLY WINNERS

DOBLE DOBLE PANALO

Send $150 to win $300!
Make a send transaction to anywhere overseas or within CNMI through the Western Union® Money Transfer service now until September 4 and receive an entry form to win up to $300 every week!

Be one of the two winners each week! Don't forget to write down your contact number in the "To Send Money" form to make claiming your prize easier and faster.

With Western Union, it's always twice the fun!

WESTERN UNION yes! money transfer

*This promotion is valid from 27 June 2011 to 4 September 2011. Terms and Conditions apply. For full terms and conditions, inquire at your nearest Western Union Agent location. ©2011 Western Union Holdings, inc. All Rights Reserved.

How's Your Hearing?

Specializing in:
- Hearing Evaluations
- Custom fitted hearing aids
- Digital and Programmable Technology
- Pilot Communication Devices

Jennifer Ross, BC-HIS
Board Certified in Hearing Instrument Sciences
Email: ross@guamcell.net

Jennifer Ross will be at:
- Friday July 15th 8:00am - 5:00pm at Marianas Medical Center in San Antonio
- Saturday July 16th 9:00am - 1:00pm at Marianas Medical Center in Garapan

All interested patients should call Marianas Medical Clinic for scheduling
234-3925/7
Insurance accepted: AETNA and Medicaid

Ross Hearing Aids

Who will be Saipan's next top chef?

Saipan's Next Top Chef Competition, a fundraiser event for the Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation, will be held at the Pacific Islands Club this Saturday, July 16, 2011, from 2pm to 4pm, with contestants competing for third, second, and Grand Prize awards.

There will be exciting raffle drawings generously donated by sponsors such as cell phones, several lunch buffets, a romantic dinner for two, special lunch, hotel packages, body massage and facial spa, cookware, and many others.

During intermissions, the program will include dancing with Saipan Stars-Body Movers featuring Dr. Esther Kanayjorn and Allen Cuyugan.

The organizer, Empty Vessel Ministry foundation Saipan Chapter, said its major sponsor, Pacific Island Club, is helping it host and organize the competition.

"We would also like to thank our other generous sponsors, including Triple J Five Star Wholesale, Taro Sue Store, Docomo Pacific, Serenity & Spa, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Marianas Resort & Spa, Saipan Grand Hotel, Bank Pacific, Marianas Business Plaza, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and the Kagman High School—Culinary students.

"Our appreciation is also extended to those individuals, families, and businesses that have already supported this fundraiser by purchasing tickets," a church statement says.

Tickets for the event are still on sale for just $25 and may be purchased at the PIC Saipan, the Empty Vessel Ministry Office in Gualo Rai, and the booth at Street Market on Thursdays.

Contact the following for tickets:

- Vicky Benavente: vicky_benavente@gmail.com, 237-5103
- Shelli Neal: shellineal@gmail.com, 285-7021
- Rose Smith: roseevm@yahoo.com, 483-0162

This is a must-see event. Don't miss our local talents demonstrating their expertise to become Saipan's Next Top Chef!

Money raised from this event will be used to provide children on Saipan with school supplies and to sponsor orphans and street children, women, and their families abroad with necessary tools to break the cycle of poverty. Visit their website at www.emptyvesselministry.org, EVM Facebook, and Pacific Island Club Facebook. ***(PR)***

AMP showcases poster art from WWII

To fight for conservation, women's rights, racial equality and uncompensated united efforts are not new battles. Although these issues have been the focus of struggles for a long time, it took a World War to put them into action.

The American Memorial Park is presenting a temporary exhibit on the Power of Persuasion: Poster Art from WWII.

"Words, posters and film waged a constant battle for the hearts and minds of the American citizenry just as surely as military weapons engaged the enemy. Persuading the American public became a wartime industry, almost as important as the manufacturing of bullets and planes."

This limited exhibit presents a pictorial representation of issues such as those mentioned above that inspired Americans to rise above their adversities. It is an engaging, though temporary, exhibit compiled by the staff of War in the Pacific, National Historic Park, Guam.

This exhibit was originally seen in its entirety at the National Archives Building in Washington D.C., from May 1994 to February 1995. ***(PR)***

PACIFIC VISION INSTRUCTION UOG

Laura Bozeman Ph.D., University of Massachusetts - Boston, instructs Jason Reiong, a Pacific Vision Instruction Program scholar from Chuuk, in the use of a cane as he walks up stairs while simulating a person who is blind or has a vision impairment. The exercise is part of the Orientation and Mobility class held at the University of Guam as part of the Pacific Vision Instruction Program. The program was offered through a partnership between the UOG Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, & Service and the University of Massachusetts – Boston. The two institutions launched the Pacific VIP master's degree program in June. Scholars are pursuing their Master of Education in Special Education degrees, plus dual credentials in Teacher of Visual Impairments and Orientation and Mobility with the goal of working with students with visual impairments in their respective island communities.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

A big birthday shoutout goes to Barney "Swagga Bear" Travilla! Hope you have an awesome one. Swagg all day, everyday! Love, from the Swagger Crew, La Familia, and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TAGS to host 'Jersey Shore'-themed party

TAGS is hosting the party event of the year and it will be one hell of a crazy night! If you've heard of the Jersey Shore MTV show and you love it, then come over to the Jersey Shore Party!

The event is a Jersey Shore theme, so if you look like one hot hottie, you've just been baked from the sun and look like an Oompa Loompa, then it's all good!

TAGS (Turtle Advocate Guidance Society) is a non-profit organization that seeks to aid sea turtle conservation efforts in Saipan. This is a great cause to helping out as well as having one great time.

The Jersey Shore Party will be at Joe's Bar "The Steak House" (formerly Remingtons) located in Garapan. The party will be on July 16, Saturday, starting at 7pm. There will be a $7 cover charge and it includes an insane night.

The party will have events, ranging from a booty shaking contest to a condom balloon contest, as well as whoever has the best, most awesome outfit of the night. And if you seriously want to hook up with one of the hotties in the party, we are auctioning off three guys and three girls with dinner at either Saipan Grand Hotel or Hyatt Regency Saipan, so bring your heavy wallets or check book and be the highest bidder!

The bar will include a special mob drink that you can buy to experience what a true mobster drinks.

The Jersey Shore Party will have the boom boom pow by DJ Sly with emcee Brad Ruszala taking us through the night!

See you there and get as orange as ever, and don't forget, Snookie and the gang will be waiting to party their asses of with you! This party is sponsored by Docomo Pacific, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, MARPAC, and TAGS.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 13, 1999

$100K earmarked for legislators' pet projects

In a move that will satisfy those seeking public offices, nearly $100,000 in remaining funds from earlier appropriation measures have been earmarked by the government for two pet projects of the Legislature in time for the November midterm elections. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has signed into law two bills passed by lawmakers that have set aside some $91,240.22 for the construction of drainage and road paving on central Saipan as well as $8,000 for the San Roque basketball court and outdoor stage. Both measures were offered by members of the House of Representatives for Precinct 3 and Precinct 4, respectively.

AG warns anew against 'Nigerian scam'

The Attorney General's Office is warning the public that the operators of the so-called "Nigerian Scam" may be active again in the Commonwealth, but this time through Internet solicitation. According to a news release issued by acting Attorney General Maya B. Kara, at least one individual on Saipan received an e-mail, supposedly from a high-ranking Nigerian army officer, soliciting the receiver's assistance on laundering several millions of dollars in bonus the sender had supposedly received from the former Nigerian military government. This "Nigerian Scam" can take several forms. Sometimes, it originates with a letter to a potential victim promising large sums of money for doing "favors" for the sender. Many of these letters have originated from Nigeria, hence the name.

July 13, 2000

Review tax incentive act

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Director Tee Abraham has aired concerns regarding a house legislation aiming to provide tax credit to employers who hire individuals with disabilities. Although mindful of the bill's good intentions, Ms. Abraham recommends a thorough review of the legislation, citing the initiative could lead to abuse of the proposed tax incentives. The bill otherwise known as the "Hire the Handicapped Tax Incentive Act of 2000" aims to grant every business or employer who hires or employs a person with disability a tax deduction form their tax or gross revenue in an amount which will equal the wages or salaries actually paid to the employee with disability.

FSM urged to open market to outside investors

The Federated States of Micronesia should start taking aggressive steps to enforce institutional reforms and a commitment to promote private sector growth in order to encourage the entry of foreign capital into the country, according to Bank of Hawaii senior economist Dr. Wali Osman. In a recent Bank of Hawaii report, Dr. Osman, an expert who looks at the region's economic trends, proposed that FSM policy-makers adopt an economic change strategy based on two principal parameters. Dr. Osman said FSM should adopt an institutional reform, and an explicit and irrevocable commitment to market principles and openness that will encourage the flow of outside capital to the country's market.

July 13, 2001

Government urged to cut payroll

The business sector yesterday urged the government to reduce its bloated payroll to maximize use of public funds. Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Richard A. Pierce, in an interview yesterday, said a 10-percent reduction in the government's personnel costs can help address funding problems in other areas like retirement contributions and scholarship programs. The government owes the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund some $60 million. The NMIRF said the government has failed to remit its share of the employees' contribution since 1999. Recent reports also claimed that funding shortfall threatens the Public School Systems' kindergarten program.

Retention of vocational program at NMC urged

Education officials have expressed opposition to the proposed separation of vocational education from the jurisdiction of the Northern Marianas College during yesterday's public hearing on a legislative initiative proposing to do so. In a letter sent to the House of Representatives' Standing Committee On Education, Kagman Elementary School principal Ignacia T. Demapan said the NMC must continue with its mission and responsibility of providing vocational and technical education, which she says is critical to the development of skills necessary for satisfying careers.

Pacific

Author transports readers to heart of Western Pacific

By CHELSEA HAWKINS
SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

SCOTTS VALLEY, Calif.—In the Pacific somewhere east of the Philippines sits the Federated States of Micronesia, a collection of small islands that remains outside even the peripheral vision of most Americans.

But Christine Mason, a Scotts Valley author, is bringing Micronesia and the island state of Pohnpei into focus in her children's novel *The Mystery of Nan Madol: A Pacific Island Adventure.*

Mason, who lived and worked in Micronesia when she served in the Peace Corps, hoped to capture her experiences and share them with her own children through fiction writing.

"[Living in Micronesia] was really a big turning point in my life," Mason said. "At first it was hard living in a tin shack with bugs and horrible conditions ... but then you just slow down."

MCT

Breta Holgers, a retired teacher, right, wrote a study guide to accompany Scotts Valley author Christine Mason's children's novel The Mystery of Nan Madol: A Pacific Island Adventure.

The Mystery of Nan Madol tells the story of a 13-year-old American girl and her experiences as she's extracted from the California culture she knows and transported to a place where the norm doesn't necessarily fit her expectations.

While the novel is largely a mystery and adventure story, it presents and attempts to tackle questions much bigger than a search for clues.

"Part of the message of the book is to preserve ancient ruins and ancient cultures," Mason said.

After making a major archeological discovery, the characters in the book must decide whether they should risk disrupting the culture of the Micronesian people in exchange for the rewards that would come from solving such a mystery.

But the novel does not only ask the reader to critically think about historical preservation versus archeological discovery, but it also raises questions of cultural education.

Breta Holgers, a retired teacher, wrote a study guide to accompany Mason's novel and said the novel creates critical questions about cultural perceptions, asking students to re-evaluate their own ideals.

"That's a great point to talk about with kids," Holgers said. "Why do you think one way is right and one way is wrong?"

For a little less than 200 pages, Mason's novel transports young readers to a place that holds different values and holds different cultural norms than what the average, 11- to 13-year-old American student knows.

Mason and Holgers said that *The Mystery of Nan Madol* asks students to participate in the novel, to become engaged and to creatively imagine the world of Micronesia. Both women hoped that reading the novel would inspire children to write and create stories of their own.

But if nothing else, the novel is an adventure far from the confines of a classroom.

"How can you not want to take a little trip somewhere in your brain?" Holgers said. "It's some other place you can go visit for a half-hour."

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Recall of Vanuatu ambassador to UN costly

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The sacking of Vanuatu's ambassador to the United Nations, Donald Kalpokas, will cost the people of Vanuatu more than $300,000. The foreign minister, Alfred Carlot, has recently publicly criticized Kalpokas, who's a former prime minister. Carlot said he'd have to let Kalpokas go because he's an old man and his performance is very poor. Kalpokas had his contract renewed last year for another three years but he upset the government when he didn't follow the government's line that Vanuatu was now recognizing the breakaway Georgian territory of Abkhazia. The Vanuatu government has since said it hasn't yet recognized Abkhazia but is working toward it. Kalpokas has rejected the criticism from the foreign minister, saying, while he's old, he's working to the best of his ability. Canceling the contract would mean a payout for Kalpokas of more than $320,000.

Kiwi judges to sit on Vanuatu bench

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—More New Zealand judges are to sit on the bar in Vanuatu on a short term basis. This follows an agreement signed by Vanuatu's Chief Justice Vincent Lunabek and his New Zealand counterpart, Dame Sian Elias. The most recent New Zealand arrival is High Court Judge, Justice Paul Heath, who is to sit on the Appeal Court for the next two weeks. Last year, another New Zealand Judge Nevin Dawson was forced to seek protection after he issued a report in his capacity as the coroner, which was scathingly critical of the police.

Lending practices at Fiji banks raise concern

SUVA, Fiji (Fijilive/PIR)—The Reserve Bank of Fiji has shown concern with the high average lending rates and the low volume of new lending by banks in Fiji. This comes in the wake of the RBF announcing that Fiji's foreign reserves were at an all time high of FJ$1.522 billion [US$871 million]. Governor of the RBF Barry Whiteside said the issues had been taken to the banks. "The RBF has raised its concerns with individual banks and collectively with the Association of Banks in Fiji, on the high average new lending rates and the low volume of new lending at a time when the liquidity in the banking system is at a historical high level," said Whiteside.

Chinese delegation eyes noni exports from Niue

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—A New Zealand delegation of Chinese business people has been in Niue, Samoa and the Cook Islands, scoping investment opportunities including the possibility of noni juice being exported to China and blended with fruit juice on a mass scale. Members of the New Zealand Chinese Business Roundtable were traveling with representatives from the Auckland based Reef Group which owns a large noni operation on Niue. The 14-strong delegation was led by Natural Dairy NZ Holdings Ltd's director Jack Chen, whose Hong Kong-based company had tried unsuccessfully to buy the Crafar family dairy farms in New Zealand.

PNG boaters found on remote island off Rabaul

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—A group of 15 people missing at sea off Papua New Guinea's New Britain island for a week has been found safe and well. They came ashore on a remote island on Monday and were re-united with family early today. The disaster management coordinator for East New Britain, Allan Pinia, says once the group came ashore the skipper of the vessel was able to call relatives to give their location. "They were heading from West New Britain, heading towards East New Britain. On the way they ran out of fuel and they had drifted. They were drifting since Monday [July 4th] until yesterday [July 11th]. They're OK they're fine, but they're weak because there was no food, they didn't have enough food on them, and water."

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SERAYA	001E	7/2 Sat	6/30 Thu	6/30 Thu	6/28 Tue	6/25 Sat	7/8 Fri	7/4 Mon	7/3 Sun	6/26 Sun	6/26 Sun	7/4 Mon	7/8 Fri	7/10 Sun	7/12 Tue
MELL SEMAKAU	019E	7/9 Sat	7/7 Thu	7/7 Thu	7/5 Tue	7/2 Sat	7/15 Fri	7/11 Mon	7/10 Sun	7/3 Sun	7/3 Sun	7/11 Mon	7/15 Fri	7/17 Sun	7/19 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	058E	7/16 Sat	7/14 Thu	7/14 Thu	7/12 Tue	7/9 Sat	7/22 Fri	7/18 Mon	7/17 Sun	7/10 Sun	7/10 Sun	7/18 Mon	7/22 Fri	7/24 Sun	7/26 Tue
MELL SERAYA	002E	7/23 Sat	7/21 Thu	7/21 Thu	7/19 Tue	7/16 Sat	7/29 Fri	7/25 Mon	7/24 Sun	7/17 Sun	7/17 Sun	7/25 Mon	7/29 Fri	7/31 Sun	8/2 Tue
MELL SEMAKAU	020E	7/30 Sat	7/28 Thu	7/28 Thu	7/26 Tue	7/23 Sat	8/5 Fri	8/1 Mon	7/31 Sun	7/24 Sun	7/24 Sun	8/1 Mon	8/5 Fri	8/7 Sun	8/9 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	059E	8/6 Sat	8/4 Thu	8/4 Thu	8/2 Tue	7/30 Sat	8/12 Fri	8/8 Mon	8/7 Sun	7/31 Sun	7/31 Sun	8/8 Mon	8/12 Fri	8/14 Sun	8/16 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SERAYA	001E	7/16 Sat	7/17 Sun	7/17 Sun	SKIP	7/20 Wed	7/22 Fri	7/24 Sun	SKIP	7/29 Fri	7/30 Sat	8/4 Thu	8/23 Tue	8/7 Sun	8/3 Wed
MELL SEMAKAU	019E	7/23 Sat	7/24 Sun	7/24 Sun	7/27 Wed	7/27 Wed	7/29 Fri	7/31 Sun	SKIP	8/5 Fri	8/6 Sat	8/11 Thu	8/30 Tue	8/14 Sun	8/10 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	058E	7/30 Sat	7/31 Sun	7/31 Sun	SKIP	8/3 Wed	8/5 Fri	8/7 Sun	SKIP	8/12 Fri	8/13 Sat	8/18 Thu	9/6 Tue	8/21 Sun	8/17 Wed
MELL SERAYA	002E	8/6 Sat	8/7 Sun	8/7 Sun	8/11 Thu	8/10 Wed	8/12 Fri	8/14 Sun	SKIP	8/19 Fri	8/20 Sat	8/25 Thu	9/13 Tue	8/28 Sun	8/24 Wed
MELL SEMAKAU	020E	8/13 Sat	8/14 Sun	8/14 Sun	SKIP	8/17 Wed	8/19 Fri	8/21 Sun	SKIP	8/26 Fri	8/27 Sat	9/1 Thu	9/20 Tue	9/4 Sun	8/31 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	059E	8/20 Sat	8/21 Sun	8/21 Sun	8/26 Fri	8/24 Wed	8/26 Fri	8/28 Sun	SKIP	9/2 Fri	9/3 Sat	9/8 Thu	9/27 Tue	9/11 Sun	9/7 Wed

Weekly service. More frequent. More dependable.

Website: www.mariana-express.com

Exclusive General Agent of MELL

For bookings, you may call our Saipan agent:

CTSI LOGISTICS,
CTSI Building, Lower Base,
P.O. Box 501937,
Saipan MP 96950
Website: www.ctsi-logistics.com

Edgar T. Garcia
Inbound/Outbound
Tel. No. (670) 322-1690 ext. 422

Leslie F. Alcantara
Sales and Marketing
Tel. No. (670) 322-1690 ext. 402

CTSI Logistics
Moving the world

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXI, Issue No. 164

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Blaming the jury

Somewhere along the way, the American viewing public mistook the Casey Anthony trial for an episode of "American Idol." If the audience had been allowed to vote, she'd be on her way to Florida's death row.

Instead, she'll be released within days, acquitted of first-degree murder of her 2-year-old daughter. She'll be free to sell her story, have another baby, go on breathing—all to the loud dismay of the armchair jurors who thought the prosecution gave a better performance than the defense. The verdict from the couch: The jury blew it.

The shrill reaction led the trial judge to seal the jurors' names out of concern for their safety. And they'll never eat chili in Clearwater again: A sign in the window at Skyline Chili there reads: "Pinellas County jurors NOT welcome!!!"

A few jurors have tried to explain.

"In our country ... we have to prove it," Jennifer Ford, aka Juror No. 3, told ABC News. "You can't just be like, 'Yeah, that really looks bad. Smells bad.'" Jurors, she said, were "sick to our stomach" over the verdict.

Juror No. 2, who asked not to be named, told the *St. Petersburg Times* that if the verdict had been determined based on emotions, "she was done."

"I wish we had more evidence to put her away," he said. "I truly do."

Two alternate jurors who sat through all the testimony said they agreed with the verdicts reached by the other 12. "They really listened to this case and kept an open mind," one said.

Open minds were hard to come by after three years of sensational coverage that began when Anthony's mother called 911 to report that her granddaughter was missing and her daughter's car reeked of death. Worried that an impartial jury couldn't be found in Orange County, where the Anthonys lived, the judge brought in jurors from Pinellas County.

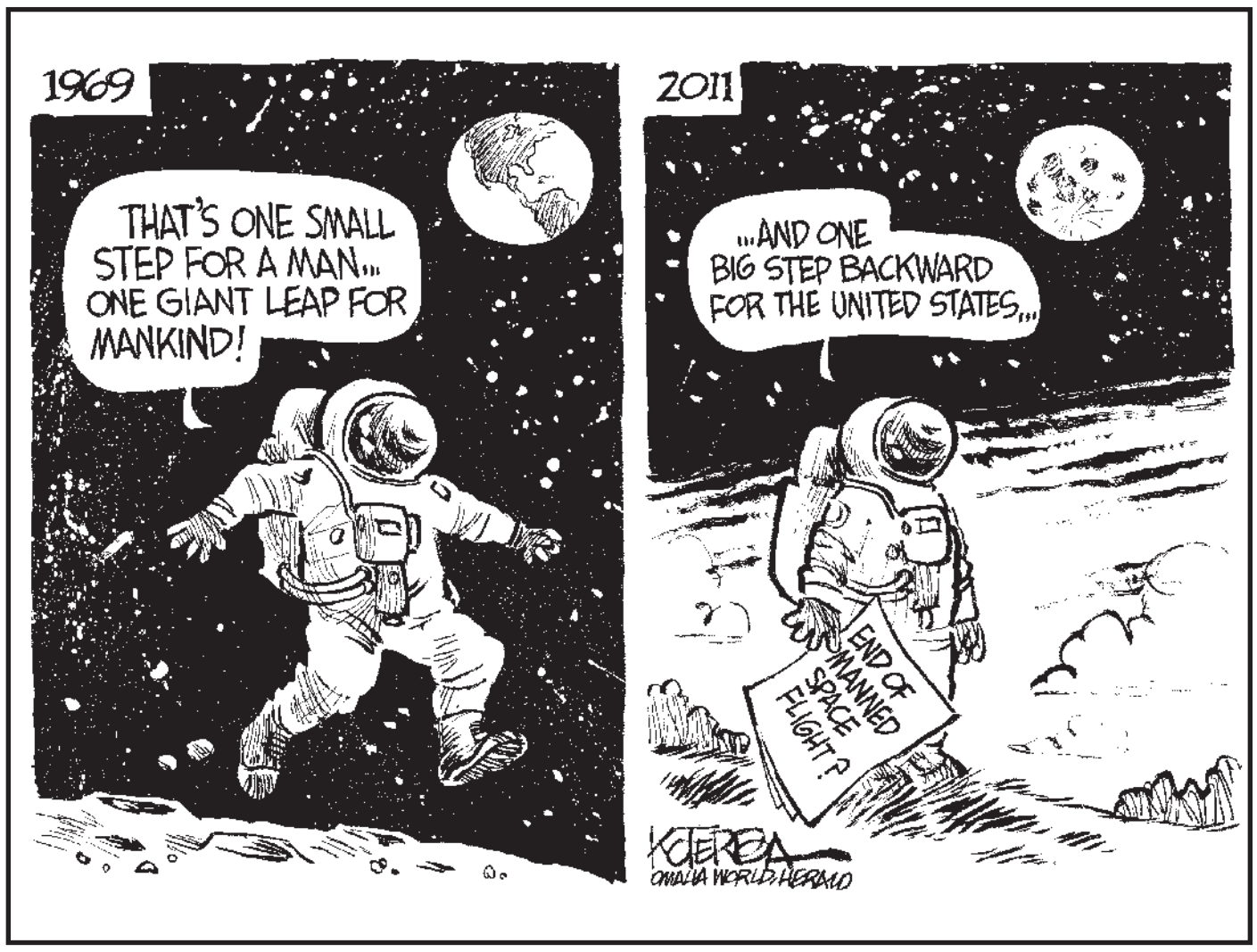
How can those who watched the trial on TV see things so differently from those who watched from the jury box? For starters, the jurors had to swear their minds weren't made up. During the trial, they weren't allowed to discuss testimony or to watch or read news accounts about it. Home viewers got live coverage, complete with "analysis," plus a daily barrage of she-did-it commentary. In the court of public opinion, Anthony was convicted long before the trial's first gavel.

Jurors also saw things the home viewers didn't. Unlike those watching on TV or the computer, jurors couldn't change the channel, chat on Facebook, answer the phone or otherwise go about their lives. How many people watched every minute of testimony from their recliners? How many watched every minute and nothing else?

It's easy to understand why the verdict is so unsatisfying. A toddler is dead, nobody is being held accountable, and Anthony sure looked guilty on television. But the case was tried in the courtroom, not the living room, and the evidence came up short.

Stop blaming the jurors. They had someone's life in their hands. The rest of us were holding the remote.

(c) 2011, Chicago Tribune


1969
THAT'S ONE SMALL STEP FOR A MAN... ONE GIANT LEAP FOR MANKIND!
2011
...AND ONE BIG STEP BACKWARD FOR THE UNITED STATES...
END OF MANNED SPACE FLIGHT?
KCIERCA
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

From Wall Street to Main Street

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's *Opinion Section*

We use the phrase "virtual wealth" to refer to value that resides more in the mind than in reality, or in the digital hard drives rather than in granaries, silos, warehouses and vaults, and we have David Korten to thank for the more colorful phrase "phantom wealth" in the subtitle of his *Agenda for a New Economy,* now in its second edition. Written with deliberate speed shortly after the 2008 election but before the inauguration of President Obama, Korten is known for his push for people-centered development against the backdrop of a global rule of corporations and their unregulated wealth-creating systems.

We've been repeatedly asked to say some more about "phantom wealth" so we will lift off portions of Korten's book on the subject. On page 28 of his *Agenda*, he writes: "Also called illusory wealth, this is wealth that appears or disappears as if by magic. The term generally denotes money created by accounting entries or the inflation of asset bubbles unrelated to the creation of anything of real value or utility. The high-tech-stock and housing bubbles are examples."

In a letter to the *Saipan Tribune*, a reader wondered how the builder of a twin structure that houses the BoH on Chalan Pale Arnold survives, considering its proximity to the Puerto Rico dump and the rickety CUC power generating plant. It is, however, also close to the manicured grounds of the AMP, the marina, and the high-income condos and apartment units of *Anaks*, thus not difficult to market the amenities and accommodations of the imposing office buildings, more so if one has connection to a prominent bank to underwrite cost, and to federal offices, foreign legation stations, prominent barristers, etc. for prestigious tenants.

In any case, real estate development, which flourished everywhere in the urbanization that followed WWII, is now the engine of financial growth in many parts of the world as natural resource rich economies and extractive industries anticipate depletions and diversify investments.

One recalls the instant wealth that descended coastal land owners when value shot up meteorically with the influx of the ¥en after the Reagan administration "adjusted" the $ in the '80s. CDA's record on loan delinquencies attests to the unfamiliarity of borrowers to judicious financial management, though, of course, we also have the added practice of living off seemingly endless government funds without provisions of repayment, or even bothering to make the investments profitable.

Korten continues: "Phantom wealth also includes financial assets created by debt pyramids in which financial institutions engage in complex trading and lending schemes using fictitious or overvalued assets as collateral for loans in order to feed and inflate asset bubbles to create more phantom collateral to support more borrowing to further feed the bubble to justify outsized management fees." These are the various incarnation of the Ponzi operation. Recession 2008 was a recent result.

We recall the hotel construction boom in early Marcos' martial law in the Philippines. The DBP (Development Bank of the Philippines) extended generous terms toward the construction of 4- to 5-star hotels to accommodate delegates of a World Bank conference that saw the installation of tall billboards en route from the international airport to the new hotels to hide the reality of the slums along the way from conference delegates' view. (Useless since the view was accessible from hotel windows!)

With low equity requirements, construction companies availed of the loans, erected the buildings on a separate contract, and further contracted themselves as hotel management. Construction companies easily recouped their initial investment even before the opening of business, and could afford to be oblivious to operational costs since partner DBP's coffers was generous, and Imelda was eager to please. Shortly after the conference was over and the bubble burst, the people's bank was left holding the liabilities, but the company officers had already paid themselves "performance" fees and audit-verified gains at the start.

"When the bubble bursts," Korten continues, "borrowers default on debts they cannot pay and the debt pyramid collapses, along with the bubble, in a cascade of bankruptcies." Sounds familiar? "Those who had no part in creating or profiting from the scam are then left to absorb the losses and to sort out the phantom-wealth claims still held by the perpetrators against the marketable real wealth of the larger society," Korten adds as he delivers the *coup de grâce:* "It is all legal, which makes it a perfect crime."

The perfect crime during the garment industry heyday, in addition to the exploitation of docile workers' time and pay, included the luring of imported workers into non-existent jobs at high premium paid up front to recruiters and factory heads. I assisted a worker get back to China after she doled out $6,000 just for a tourist roundtrip ticket facilitated by a compatriot agent with a local government official as a the sponsor on record, with a vague promise of a job. I found out later that the local official regularly consumes "ice," so the crime committed was not just white-collar; it extended to the nooks of bloodthirsty greed and relentless corruption.

Chapter 5 of *Agenda* deals with the main meat of the book, on what the Wall Street wants. Let's reserve that for a forthcoming reflection.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Gauging preliminary 'critical mass'

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Delrosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section*

My former high school biology teacher, Mr. Roger N. Ludwick, presented a well-written and reasoned analysis about the missing links in leadership here. His viewpoint depicts what's known in politics as "critical mass," when an issue becomes so big among the electorate that it overwhelms them beyond exasperation, therefore the demand for change in "business as usual."

Yes, the electorate demands for real change with crystal clear expressions of the severity of their economic lot ravaged by work-hour reductions as the cost of utility and other family obligations skyrocket quicker than their flat income could weather. The tsunami of change, though three meters tall, will eventually destroy the old tired and recycled order. It's unstoppable!

Most importantly, this critical mass is an indictment of the less than stellar performance of incumbents in office—Covenant and Republicans—who have turned the future of posterity into hopelessness and apocalyptic economic devastation.

In short, the crippling effects of a devastated economy have been ingrained in their minds as critical mass to bring to the 2012 mid-term election. In time, they'd converge and organize into a powerful group composed of independents, Democrats, disgruntled Republicans and Covenant. The recently established merger is basically a part of the ash heap of history—met sadly with heavy decibels of yawn and fodder for humor rather than affirmative accolades.

In a related matter, I recently had a very healthy discussion with a Ph.D. student from here who quizzed, "Sir, is there a planning commission that follows through approved socio-economic plans with intermittent refinement to ensure we attain certain goals as we move forward?" I had to politely explain that "planning" isn't a forte of elected officials and that eventually such a commission would emerge by necessity.

It was a task answering fully informed questions from the young Ph.D. student who also asked, "Upon completion, what's there for me when I return in two years to work here? Would there be job and opportunities for continuing professional development or would there really be a job for me in the first place? What about the future of other scholars who may never return because of the lack of real opportunities here?"

She's very familiar (sighing) of the role of families in local politics that embraces the so-called culture of reluctance that simply retains the status quo. "There's a lot to do to move our people and islands forward with real plans to forge a brighter future for our children. Otherwise, most of the bright ones will simply stay where they choose to across the country." I sat there mentally paralyzed at the prospect of the brain drain at a time when we really need the leadership of our educated children.

We even came to discussing the paternalistic attitude of the federal government and how certain policies have ruined progressive economic strides. In large measure, it discouraged the real exercise of self-government and created uncertainty in terms of our future.

"When the community matures and is equipped with an educated elite, then the next level is to move the NMI beyond the colonial mindset it's stuck in today." I couldn't agree more. The young kid is bright and has a vision of the future but it was profoundly embarrassing that I can't say the same for our blurry eyed, recycled bunch on the hill.

■ ■ ■

Politics: NMI's largest industry

The pundits have started preliminary posturing with an array of repeat losers/advisers wearing the same brand shirt—blue. The anticipated fireworks in the merger between Covenant loyalists and Republicans were met with long and tired yawn and dissatisfaction from both camps. The Covenant remains intact and would field its own set of candidates next year. The grand sense of camaraderie direly needed to foster a good beginning is missing and a bad omen for what lies ahead.

It brings into focus the midterm election that comes around next year. It instantly translates into the re-election of incumbents whose fate would be determined by their performance (call it less than stellar or mediocre) and the result of their policies. Specifically, what are these policies and did it in fact make a difference in the pocketbooks of families throughout the NMI?

Was help extended to weather the horrendous cost of utilities, gasoline, and basic familial necessities? If so, can incumbents justify what these measures are and how did it help the working people you represent? Or are you wearing wool pullovers even at noon, unsure why the strange body chill?

That politics has once more returned as the largest industry here ought to make it easy for incumbents and their pundits to justify what exactly did they do individually and collectively to make life on these isles better for our people. Did you find ways to return the biweekly employees' 80 hours? Or did you just decide to ignore it in hopes the administration finds some mystical and magical answers to cover for your inadequacies and glaring ineptitude? Or have you decided to parrot former governor Juan N. Babauta's assessment that the "economy is pretty darn good?" Is it? Really? Can you point them out for all to see?

It's the economy and how badly it has ruined the livelihood of families here. Yes, it is uppermost in the minds of the electorate. Most have seen the implant of real time "hardship" in their central vision. Unless you as an incumbent can change this vividly vicious icon in their minds, most of you won't be returning to fill your warm seats on Capital Hill. People have simply and quietly decided against repeating history! Not this time around, folks.

Not when your inaction, indecisions and ineptitude are so eerily silent it's deafening!

Charities can be the nation's conscience

By ALLAN LUKS
Los Angeles Times
Allan Luks, the former director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City, is director of the Fordham Center for Nonprofit Leaders and a visiting professor at Fordham University's Graduate School of Social Service. He is the author of four books, among them The Healing Power of Doing Good*. He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times*.*

Among the many proposals to raise taxes and cut and reallocate government spending to regain our country's economic health, one of the most sensitive is decreasing the tax deductibility of charitable contributions.

The independent Congressional Budget Office recently reviewed 11 options for revising the income tax treatment of charitable giving, and it grouped them into four categories. All establish a floor below which contributions would not be deductible. One proposal retained tax deductibility only for donations exceeding $1,000 per couple or, alternatively, 2 percent of a person's adjusted gross income. Under this example, the report estimated that individuals who itemize deductions would pay $15.7 billion in additional taxes yearly to the government. But charitable agencies could experience a loss of up to $3 billion (1.5 percent of the more than $200 billion now given annually by individuals).

That loss should be accepted by charities as the cost of leadership needed by the country now.

Contributing is a basic way we feel linked to one another. Reducing how much and how many people give to worthy causes will cut important help provided by human service, health, educational and cultural organizations. Yet, if the charitable sector publicly accepted a tax change and the potentially lower donations that would result, this action would provide desperately needed leadership to help move the country toward fiscal recovery.

We do not have an economic recovery plan that the country can rally behind because politicians and the public repeatedly assert, "Don't cut my group" and "Don't tax my group." But we face "a looming crisis," according to the bipartisan National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform. The commission further warns that, unless special interests stop lobbying to "exempt themselves from shared sacrifice," our economy could shrink by 2 percent in 10 years. We need 3 percent growth just to begin to increase jobs.

If the nation's 800,000 public charities that file returns with the Internal Revenue Service speak out and say that they will accept the proposed tax treatment change for contributions, they would exercise their role as the public's conscience. They would force a good part of the private sector to look into the mirror and ask whether certain changes and compromise may be best for their own, their children's and the nation's future.

The charities' public calls also would embarrass and provoke the leaders of manufacturers, corporations, banks, hedge funds, associations concerned about Social Security and Medicare, and the rest of the endless list of special-interest groups to accept government spending cuts and tax increases proposed for their own areas, as proof of their genuine interest in jump-starting the economic recovery.

The general public looks to the nonprofit sector to be the conscience of our nation. That is why individuals and institutions yearly donate $260 billion, and 65 million Americans volunteer their time.

I was a nonprofit leader for three decades and am now a university professor teaching about social change. Institutions and individuals always resist giving up benefits, and too many elected officials just go along with that. But people will change and support good-citizen actions if an aroused public spotlight is shined on them and they're forced to look in the mirror.

Charities can hold up this mirror. But the clock is ticking.

I am a beneficiary of Social Security and Medicare and accept the need to reduce benefits or pay a greater cost. The choice — for my children and grandson — is clear.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I'll believe it when I see it

Seven million dollars in rebates, refunds in December? I'll believe it when I see it. I'm still waiting for my 2009 tax return to be issued. On July 11, 2009, I asked the tax office when my check would be issued. They said within a few weeks. A few weeks is now over 65 weeks since I filed.

I'll believe it when I see it since CNMI spokesman Demapan said last year on July 13, 2010, in a *Saipan Tribune* headline titled "Refund checks worth $6.4M now out." He said: "We want to inform our taxpayers that the Fitial administration is following through on our commitment that we will not invade funds reserved. We promised to timely release refund and rebate checks." I have to laugh at this, honestly, laugh a lot. Sixty-five weeks and counting.

"As promised, the Fitial administration didn't dip into the refund and rebate funds despite difficulty in making payroll on time and making timely payments to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for power, water and sewer services." Fifteen months and counting. Now they say checks will be issued in December. That would make around 20-plus months and counting...where is the interest? I figure that should be around another $300 to $400. Are the people who have children going to be leapfrogged over others who have waited so long for their checks to be issued? Sad times we live in.

To clarify another point I made in a letter about Article 12, I said that the land of the CNMI should remain in the hands of Chamorros and Carolinians. I said, "The only changes that should be made are the people whose grandparents are Chamorro or Carolinian and they (the younger generation) are not 100 percent, they should be able to own land." I should have made myself clearer: The land should be owned by anyone 1/32 Carolinian or Chamorro or higher (as some Native American tribes allow) and the law should state more clearly that owners can freely sell the land to anyone without government intervention. I apologize for any confusion about that.

Still I'll wait for my check to be issued. I guarantee I won't get it before Christmas. I've been right at least eight times in the past year. Let me go for nine. I'm so sure that my check won't be issued any time soon. If it arrives before July 20, I will buy two bloodhounds (the world's greatest tracking dog), pay for their shipping to the CNMI, and donate them to the CNMI police to help the police locate any missing children and assist in locating in the missing girls.

Keith Brooks
Dandan, Saipan

Thank you

I would like to thank the San Jose Parish Church, the community at large, our uncles, aunties, family members on Tinian, Saipan, Luta, and Guam for all their prayers during our father's operation in Leesville, Louisiana, and also to auntie Terry Kinto in Guam, who made my trip possible.

Jose P. Kiyoshi
San Jose, Tinian

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲84° ▼77°	▲84° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°

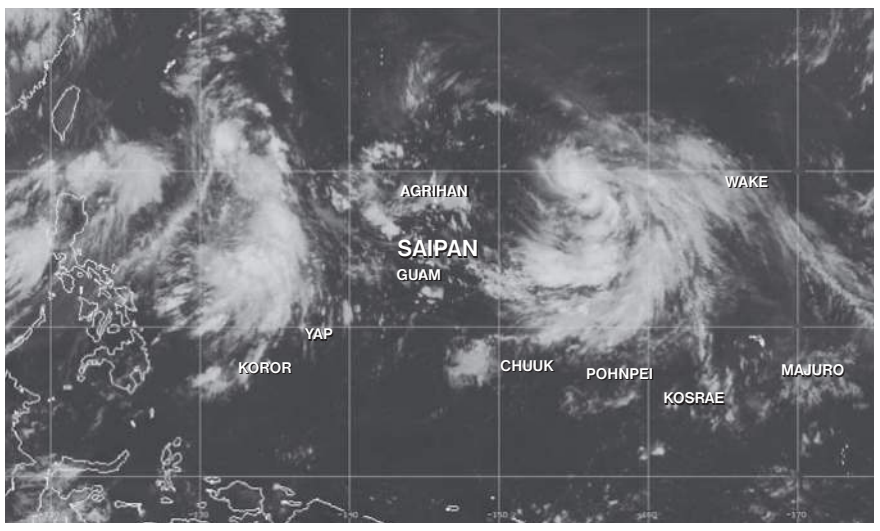
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲83 ▼75
Palau	Showers	▲85 ▼78
Yap	Rain	▲85 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲83 ▼77
Pohnpei	Rain	▲87 ▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲88 ▼77
Majuro	Rain	▲85 ▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲60 ▼55
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲89 ▼70
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼82
Honolulu	Sunny	▲86 ▼75
London	Showers	▲68 ▼52
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲73 ▼60
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲58 ▼45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼79
New York	Thundershowers	▲94 ▼75
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲90 ▼77
Paris	Rain	▲70 ▼55
Pusan	Thunderstorms	▲78 ▼72
Rome	Sunny	▲93 ▼72
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲72 ▼55
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲59 ▼54
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲80 ▼72
Tokyo	Sunny	▲88 ▼75
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲100 ▼81

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical depression 08W is centered east of the Marianas at 19N155E. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring west of Wake Island between 23N and 10N from 151E to 165E. A surface trough runs east-northeastward from a low-level circulation centered north of Koror at 13N132E to tropical depression 08W then turns northeastward to beyond 25N at 161E. Two upper-level lows are juxtaposed near the surface trough, one centered west of the Marianas at 17N145E and the other centered northeast of the Marianas at 23N149E. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are found north and west of Koror within 210 miles of a line from 23N133E to 11N144E to 7N132E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found over the northern CNMI between 21N and 17N from 140E to 148E. Converging winds southwest of tropical disturbance 08W are generating scattered showers west and north of Chuuk within 80 miles of a line from 7N148E to 10N158E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:32 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
5:38 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
1:24 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.5 Feet
8:43 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:03 PM	3:37 AM
Thursday	5:58 PM	4:36 AM
Friday	6:47 PM	5:34 AM
Saturday	7:33 PM	6:30 AM
Sunday	8:14 PM	7:23 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2011

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K382	6:00pm	6:50pm	2, 5, 7
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

MU590	4:30am	7:20am	2, 6
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 4

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT
C09313/933	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
5K168	3:25pm	6:35pm	1, 4, 6
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K389	1:35pm	2:25pm	1, 4, 6
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:05pm	12:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

MU589	8:50pm	3:30am+1	1, 5
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:25am+1	3, 6 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
5K169	9:55am	5:00pm	2, 5, 7
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Fed chief to face grilling after weak jobs report

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke may feel surrounded when he testifies before Congress this week.

Bernanke

From his left, Democrats will demand to know what the Fed can do to create jobs, especially after the government reported last week that unemployment rose to 9.2 percent in June and the economy generated just 18,000 net new jobs.

From his right, Republicans will likely question the Fed's complicity in high energy and food prices.

"The Fed has become a very convenient whipping post for members of Congress," says Sarah Binder, a George Washington University political scientist who has studied the Fed's relations with Congress.

But Bernanke won't just play defense.

He's expected to issue a strong warning to lawmakers to raise the nation's debt limit before an Aug. 2 deadline. On that day, the government won't have enough money to pay all its bills and could default on its debt. "We believe he will be very harsh and direct when it comes to the issue of a U.S. default," says David Kotok, chairman of the investment firm Cumberland Advisors. "He will ask the Congress not to play games with the debt limit."

Negotiations have bogged down. Republicans reject Democratic proposals to include any tax increases in any deal to slash the federal government's deficits in exchange for raising the $14.3 trillion debt limit. Economists fear the threat of default will send interest rates soaring and risk tipping the economy back into recession.

Bernanke is also expected to once again urge Congress to postpone deep spending cuts as part of any deficit-reduction plan. He believes big cuts right away would jeopardize the economy, still fragile two years after economists say the Great Recession officially ended.

Speaking before the House Financial Services Committee Wednesday and the Senate Banking Committee Thursday, the Fed chairman will explain why the Fed ended a $600 billion bond-buying program on schedule last month. The purchases were designed to jolt the economy by pushing down long-term interest rates. Economists say the program probably did help the economy pick up speed late last year. Lower rates encouraged consumers to spend. And the purchases triggered a strong rally in the stock market. Higher stock prices made investors feel wealthier and more willing to go shopping.

Bernanke unveiled the bond purchases last year after the economy lost momentum. The Fed chief was worried then that United States might slip into a deflationary spiral. Deflation is a broad and prolonged drop in wages, the prices of goods and services and the value of assets such as stocks and houses. The country last experienced serious deflation in the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Now economic growth has slowed again this spring and summer, and unemployment has gone up three straight months. But the Fed has all but ruled out another round of bond purchases.

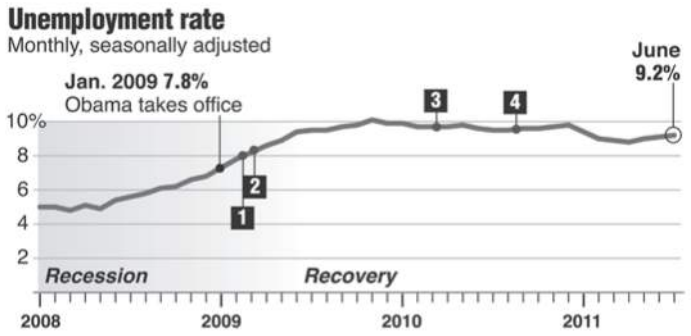
There's a big difference between now and a year ago: The deflation threat has faded, replaced by a run-up in the prices of oil and other commodities. Critics charge that the billions the Fed pumped into the system by buying bonds lowered the value of the dollar and contributed to the spike in oil and food prices.

The economists at IHS Global Insight say the Fed should be considering another round of bond purchases after recent signs of economic weakness.

But Bernanke has said he believes the latest economic problems are largely "transitory"—the result of high oil prices that are already falling again and a disruption in factory production caused by a massive earthquake in Japan. The Fed expects economic growth to pick up speed in the second half of the year and for unemployment to drop to 8.9 percent or lower by year's end. Still, the Fed says the economy remains weak enough for it to keep short-term interest rates near zero indefinitely.

A jobless recovery

President Barack Obama's term in office has been plagued by high unemployment despite initiatives aimed at creating and saving jobs.



1 Automakers bailout
President George W. Bush enacted the Troubled Asset Relief Program in October 2008, part of which provided $20 billion to troubled U.S. automakers; Obama tapped the program for $60 billion more to prevent the collapse of GM and Chrysler

2 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
$787 billion stimulus package aimed at boosting the economy through increases in domestic spending on education, healthcare and infrastructure, as well as expansion of federal tax incentives, unemployment benefits and other programs

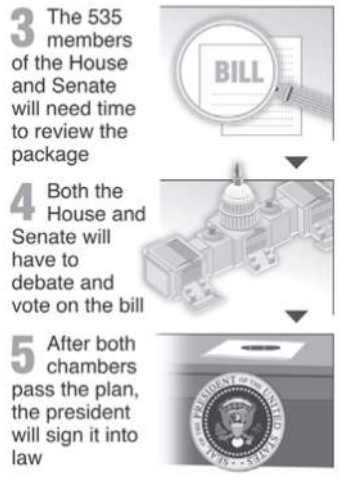
3 HIRE Act
$17.6 billion bill provides payroll tax credits for companies that hire employees who have been out of work for 60 days or more

4 Small Business Jobs Act
Made available $30 billion in capital for community banks to lend to small businesses, $12 billion in targeted tax cuts to businesses and temporarily increase in some Small Business Admin. loan maximums

© 2011 MCT
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Chicago Tribune
Graphic: Chicago Tribune

After the deal's done

The White House says in order to meet the Aug. 2 deadline for raising the debt ceiling, a deal needs to be agreed to by July 22. A look at the logistical challenges that need to be met for the deal to become law:


1 Legislation must be written
2 Congressional Budget Office will have to calculate the fiscal implications
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
3 The 535 members of the House and Senate will need time to review the package
BILL
4 Both the House and Senate will have to debate and vote on the bill
5 After both chambers pass the plan, the president will sign it into law

Source: Congressional Quarterly
Graphic: Judy Treible, Robert Dorrell
© 2011 MCT

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Starbucks aligns top management for growth abroad

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Starbucks is realigning its top management to help drive its international growth. The Seattle-based coffee giant said Monday that it is dividing responsibilities for its business into three global regions: Asia, the Americas and a combination of Europe, the Middle East and Africa. It now has two units, the U.S. and international. The company has appointed three of its current executives to lead the regions. Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz says the company's financial performance has never been stronger and this move helps maximize its opportunities in key growing markets such as China, Brazil and India. Starbucks has nearly 11,000 stores in North America and almost 6,000 in the rest of the world.

Stocks sink on fresh fears about global economy

NEW YORK (AP)—July doesn't look so promising anymore. The European debt crisis appears to be widening, with concerns about government debt defaults spreading beyond Greece to much larger countries like Italy and Spain. If that happens companies that do business internationally could see their revenue and profits decline as European countries and companies curtail purchases. What's more, a widespread financial crisis could cause a credit crunch in Europe and elsewhere. The concerns sent stocks down. The Standard & Poor's 500 index dropped 24.31 points, or 1.8 percent, to 1,319.49 on Monday. The Dow Jones industrial average had its biggest percentage drop in nearly a month. It fell 151.44 points, or 1.2 percent, to 12,505.76. And after closing one point off its 2011 high late last week, the Nasdaq composite fell 57.19, or 2.0 percent to 2,802.62.

Oil settles lower on concerns about global demand

NEW YORK (AP)—The latest readings on Chinese inflation and renewed worries about European debt pushed oil lower. Benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude fell $1.05 to settle at $95.15 per barrel Monday on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, which is used to price many international oil varieties, dropped $1.09 to settle at $117.24 per barrel on the ICE Futures exchange in London. Oil started falling after a weekend announcement that inflation in China hit a three-year high in June. China has been raising interest rates in an attempt to control inflation and cool off its economy, but on Saturday the government said consumer prices continued to increase, jumping 6.4 percent last month. Rising consumer prices will heap even more pressure on the country's expanding economy, and that could affect energy demand.

Airlines reeling in premium passengers with wine

ATLANTA (AP)—Delta Air Lines' master sommelier Andrea Robinson opened up bottle after bottle of white and red wine from France, Italy, Australia, the U.S. and other parts of the world.

As she tasted them Monday, a blue bucket sat on the table next to her. It was there so she could spit out each sip, ensuring she didn't get tipsy and could distinguish between the different wines. By the time she's done in the next few days, Robinson will have tasted and smelled roughly 2,000 bottles.

The delicate work of a sommelier has become more important as U.S. airlines fight for premium passengers willing to shell out up to thousands of dollars to fly business class on international and transcontinental flights. The idea isn't to make money on the wine—the passengers in those seats drink for free—but rather to keep those customers coming back and encourage their well-heeled friends and co-workers to join them. Other airlines including United Airlines and American Airlines also work with wine experts to help them choose what to serve on their flights.

And there's a market for it: According to the International Air Transport Association, through the first four months of this year, there was an 8.5 percent increase year-over-year in premium passenger traffic, which includes business class and first class seats. Those seats are among the most pricey and profitable for airlines. The trade group expects fuel costs to weigh on premium traffic, and stronger growth in the second half of the year will depend on how well the economy holds up.

Robinson's task is to choose 30 labels for Delta, which is based in Atlanta. The wine and champagne will be served in Delta's BusinessElite class cabins in 2012. The world's second-largest carrier expects to order some 1.6 million bottles for the service. The still wines Robinson looks for range from a retail price of $25 to $30 a bottle, while dessert wines will run $30 to $35 a bottle and the champagne will run $45 to $50 a bottle.

"If it costs $20, it has to taste like $40. That's what I'm aiming for," Robinson said.

She is looking for wines with a distinct taste that will come through when sipped at 30,000 feet by bankers and vacationers alike, because passengers' sense of taste and smell can be diminished when in flight.

Delta's domestic coach passengers can buy glasses of wine, though the selections won't be as chic and won't get the same special attention from Robinson. Coach passengers on Delta international flights get wine for free.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,505.80	1,319.49	2,802.62
-151.44	-24.31	-57.19
-1.20%	-1.81%	-2.00%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9438	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7932	Philippine Peso	43.1500
British Pound	0.6298	Indian Rupee	44.6350	Singapore Dollar	1.2285
Canadian Dollar	0.9716	Indonesian Rupiah	8,557.50	South Korean Won	1,063.895
Chinese Yuan	6.4731	Japanese Yen	80.0750	Swiss Franc	0.8372
Euro	0.7166	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0280	Taiwan Dollar	28.9160
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2200	Thailand Baht	30.4920

Nation

No stopgap: Obama demands big deal for debt limit

WASHINGTON (AP)—Imploring both political parties to give ground, President Barack Obama declared Monday he would reject any stopgap extension of the nation's borrowing limit, adding fresh urgency for Republicans and fellow Democrats to resolve intense tax and spending disputes and head off economic calamity.

"If not now, when?" Obama said in a news conference just ahead of his latest bargaining session with congressional leaders at the White House. That meeting lasted about 90 minutes and ended with no sign of progress.

Lawmakers planned to return to the White House for more talks Tuesday afternoon.

Obama told reporters the sessions would be an everyday affair until there was agreement, and he refused to even entertain the idea of a backup plan should they fail and the government should default on Aug. 2.

"We are going to get this done," Obama insisted. They have two weeks or less to do so in order to get any deal through Congress in time.

Yet the path to an accord remained hard to see. Even as Obama spoke, Republicans renewed their opposition to the tax increases he sees as crucial along with spending cuts for reducing huge federal deficits and restraining the soaring national debt.

"Do you need to raise taxes in order to get control of spending? I think the answer is no," said House Speaker John Boehner just before heading to the White House.

Said House Majority Leader Eric Cantor: "We are not going to raise taxes. That's all."

And there was no indication late Monday that the latest bargaining session moved either side off its talking points.

"Republicans are insisting on cutting seniors' benefits instead of closing taxpayer-funded giveaways to billionaires and corporate jet owners," Adam Jentleson, spokesman for Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, said after the White House meeting broke up.

Democrats suggested that most spending cuts be concentrated in the later years of a deal, but a Republican aide said GOP lawmakers took issue with that suggestion and want the cuts to begin right away.

A potential deal—a package that could total $2 trillion or more in deficit cuts over a decade—is considered necessary for Congress to lift the nation's $14.3 trillion debt limit. Failure to lift that cap could cause the government to default on its bills and sink the economy and the world into deeper trouble.

Obama renewed his case Monday for a package that would put a historic dent in the country's deficits by blending politically poisonous elements for both parties: tax hikes for the wealthy and big corporations opposed by Republicans and social service cuts that Democrats decry.

Life and debt

$14.3 trillion — wrap your head around that — You can't, you say? Maybe this will help

The U.S. federal debt is so enormous that most people cannot conceive of it. So we've left it to elected officials to figure it out, a strategy hasn't worked out too well. While Washington powerhouses draw out negotiating an increase in the debt ceiling, the Treasury projects that the U.S. will begin defaulting Aug. 2. Let's look at the scope of the problem.

NOTE: Predator B drone estimated at $4.5 million

How much we owe

$14,343,010,710,537.58

That's the government's most recent figure as of July 11 in the afternoon — more than $14.3 trillion, which is more than $45,000 for every U.S. resident

That's enough to buy every Chicago man, woman and child a new Bentley luxury automobile with a Predator drone lashed to the roof (installation not included)

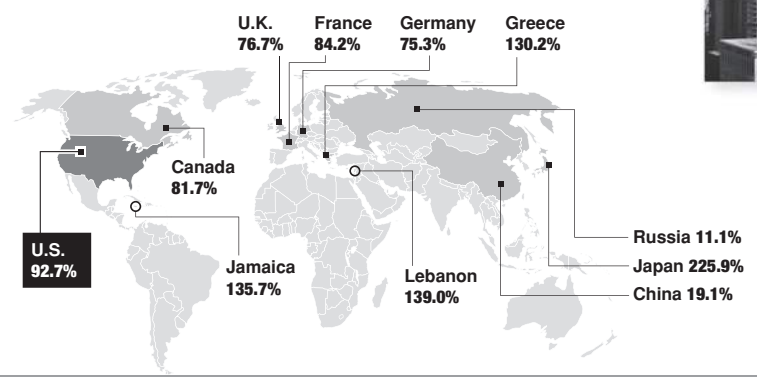
That's enough money to pay Bulls star Derrick Rose's 2011-12 salary for more than 2 million years (but will he still be worth $7 million in the year 2051000?)

That's enough to build Chicago's Trump Tower 16,000 more times (the effect on Donald Trump's ego would be incalculable)

How we rate in the world

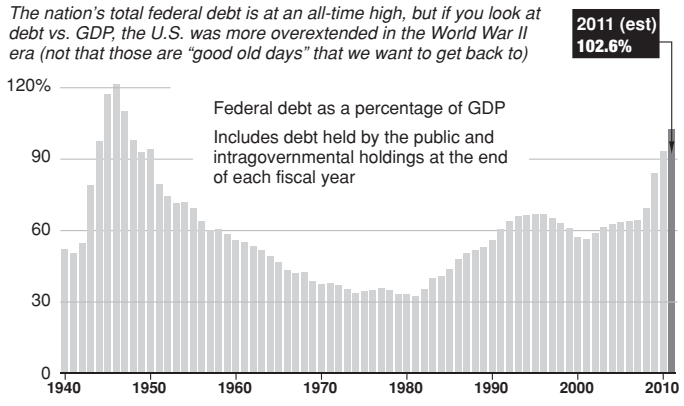
Debt as percent of GDP, 2010

The U.S. is near an artificial milestone in which the federal debt exceeds the nation's gross domestic product; while debt-to-GDP is calculated in different ways and its significance is disputed, some view it as an indicator of national economic health; here's a sampling of countries, some better off, some worse



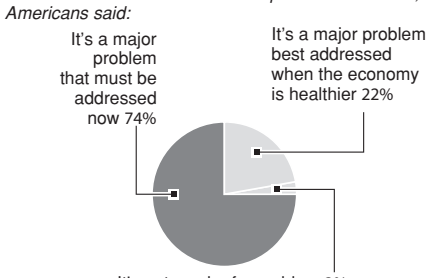
How we rate historically

The nation's total federal debt is at an all-time high, but if you look at debt vs. GDP, the U.S. was more overextended in the World War II era (not that those are "good old days" that we want to get back to)



How worried we are

In a recent Pew Research Center poll about the debt, Americans said:


It's a major problem that must be addressed now 74%
It's a major problem best addressed when the economy is healthier 22%
It's not much of a problem 3%

(That amazingly optimistic 3 percent probably thinks someone will show up at their front door with a free MacBook Pro)

© 2011 MCT

Source: Treasurydirect.gov, census.gov, automotive.com, apple.com, treasury.gov, usnews.com, pewresearch.org, texasobserver.org, chron.com., White House Office of Management and Budget

Graphic: Mark Jacob

Whoa, baby! Texas mom delivers 16-pound newborn

LONGVIEW, Texas (AP)—A Texas mom expected a big baby, but nothing like this: 16 pounds, 1 ounce.

Janet Johnson on Monday remained in an East Texas hospital after giving birth to what her doctors called one of the biggest newborns they've ever seen. She was awaiting word on whether her son, JaMichael Brown, ranked among the biggest births in state history.

"Everybody was amazed that he was so big," Johnson, 39, said. "I don't think too many people have heard of having a 16-pound baby."

JaMichael was born Friday at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Longview. Johnson has gestational diabetes, which results in bigger newborns for many mothers. Doctors had estimated JaMichael would be around 12 pounds prior to the cesarean birth.

The hospital has asked the state's vital records department whether JaMichael is big enough to approach any Texas newborn records, said Victoria Ashworth, a hospital spokeswoman. He is certainly the biggest in the history of the Longview hospital and was born, Ashworth said, almost two years to the day after the hospital delivered its smallest baby ever, who weighed just 15 ounces.

Guinness World Records says the heaviest newborn ever recorded weighed 23 pounds, 12 ounces, born to an Ohio woman in 1879.

ACROSS THE NATION

Casey Anthony's safety post-release worries lawyer

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—One of Casey Anthony's defense lawyers says he's worried about her safety once she's released from jail after being acquitted of murdering her 2-year-old daughter. Cheney Mason told the NBC's "Today" show Monday he doesn't know where Anthony will go when she's freed Sunday from a Florida jail. He said she would need time and counseling to re-enter society after being jailed for nearly three years before and during her high-profile trial. She was convicted of four counts of lying to law enforcement. Mason said Anthony's relations with her parents were "pretty well burned" after the trial, where her defense team contended she was sexually abused by her father. Her father, George Anthony, denied the claims. Jail records show Casey Anthony refused a visit Friday from her mother, Cindy Anthony.

Planes collide in midair in Alaska but land safely

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Two small planes collided in midair along a narrow and treacherous mountain corridor in Alaska in a crash that marked an extraordinarily rare event: No one was injured. "It is extremely unusual," Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Mike Fergus said Monday. "It is almost unheard of." The near-tragedy occurred Sunday afternoon as a Piper Navajo and Cessna 206 floatplane were flying directly toward each other in Lake Clark Pass—a narrow river valley that runs between Anchorage mountains. The nine people aboard the Piper Navajo and the four in the Cessna 206 floatplane had no idea they were about to collide in the passage.

Train, semitrailer crash in Maine, killing trucker

NORTH BERWICK, Maine (AP)—Police say the trucker killed in a fiery collision with Amtrak's Downeaster in North Berwick, Maine, was a New Hampshire man. Police say 35-year-old Peter Barnum of Farmington, N.H., was killed late Monday morning when his tractor-trailer skidded into the path of the Downeaster, which was traveling northward at a speed of 70 mph. Both the tractor-trailer and the locomotive caught fire. There were no life-threatening injuries among the train's 112 passengers or three crew members. Patricia Quinn of the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority says four passengers and two crew members were hurt. Three were taken to Goodall Hospital in Sanford, where all were treated and released. The Downeaster runs between Portland and Boston, serving nearly 1,400 passengers each day.

7 killed in crash returning from family reunion

NICEVILLE, Fla. (AP)—When the Fred Teutenberg missed his regular gig playing bass guitar in the church band, the pastor and congregation sensed something was amiss. Knowing the family had a private plane and that Teutenberg was a pilot, they checked news reports of crashes and quickly figured out the Florida family had been killed coming home from a family reunion in St. Louis. Teutenberg, his wife Terresa, and their five children, ages 2 through 10, died in the crash. Teutenberg's 16-year-old stepdaughter, who lived in Missouri with her father, stayed behind and wasn't on board. The family had left the reunion early to make it back for church service Sunday when the right engine of the Cessna C421 failed Saturday night, Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman Holly Baker said. The aircraft plummeted into dense woods in western Alabama and it took hours to find the wreckage in the remote area.

100-degree heat grips the South, Midwest

DALLAS (AP)—The temperature setting is stuck on broil across a swath of the Midwest and South, with Dallas and Oklahoma City sweltering through 100-degree heat for at least 10 days in a row. Forecasters warned on Monday that the extreme heat could continue for most of the week and perhaps beyond. At the same time, many people won't be able to cool off by taking a dip: Swimming pools in some cities have closed because of budget cuts. Heat advisories and excessive-heat warnings were issued Monday for 17 states in the Midwest and South. For Tuesday, the National Weather Service issued heat advisories for much of the East Coast, from Georgia to Connecticut, where temperatures are expected in the upper 90s but will feel as hot as 105 because of the humidity.

Asia

Bangladesh truck crash kills 44, mostly schoolboys

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—A cargo truck packed with schoolboys returning home from a soccer match crashed into a canal in southeastern Bangladesh on Monday, killing 44 passengers, police said. The driver fled and was being sought for arrest.

Rescuers had pulled out the vehicle in the evening as they continued searching for survivors or bodies in the small ditch filled with recent rains. Military troops joined the rescue, and doctors from nearby towns were deployed to help the survivors.

The cargo truck had been hired to take the students home after they watched the tournament, police official Iftekhar Hasan said. Hiring such trucks is a usual practice in Bangladesh for a quick group ride during festivals or celebrations.

"According to several witnesses the boys were singing and dancing on board the truck," said Hasan. "The truck skidded off the muddy road and turned (over) as it plunged into the canal."

AP

Bangladeshi rescue workers look for bodies after a vehicle packed with schoolchildren returning home from a soccer tournament crashed into a canal in Chittagong district, 216 kilometers (136 miles) southeast of Dhaka, Bangladesh, Monday, July 11, 2011.

By late Monday, authorities ended the search and opened an investigation, Hasan told The Associated Press by phone from the scene.

About 60 people, mostly children between ages 8 and 12, were on the vehicle that crashed, Hasan said. One person who died was 30 and three others were between 17 and 20, he said.

The driver survived and fled immediately after the crash, Hasan said.

"We have got the driver's name, we are checking his background," he said. "Our team will arrest him."

The cause of the crash wasn't known, but one report said the driver was talking on his phone and lost control while trying to give room for a vehicle coming from the opposite direction. It occurred in Chittagong district, 216 kilometers (136 miles) southeast of the capital, Dhaka.

Rescuers recovered 44 bodies from the wreckage and returned them to their families. Hasan said at least 12 children were being treated at hospitals but could not give an exact figure of the survivors.

Residents from about 10 villages joined an Islamic funeral prayer late Monday at a school in the area as authorities and relatives prepared for the burials of the victims, mostly Muslims, Hasan said.

Earlier angry residents had vandalized some vehicles in the area as they complained the rescuers were late to reach the scene. Video footage showed some relatives of the dead wailing at their homes and in the hospitals.

President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina condoled the deaths.

Road accidents are common in Bangladesh due to reckless driving, lax traffic rules and poor road conditions. An independent research group says about 12,000 Bangladeshi people annually die in such accidents.

Rescue work ends after Indian train wreck kills 68

FATEHPUR, India (AP)—Railway workers began clearing the mangled wreckage of a derailed passenger train in northern India after ending a rescue operation that found 68 bodies.

Throughout Monday, anxious relatives searching for missing family members thronged to the site of Sunday's crash as bodies wrapped in white shrouds lay in rows on the ground next to the train.

By late Monday afternoon, rescue teams had finished searching the twisted coaches for victims and survivors and the repair work had begun amid pouring rain.

At least 239 passengers were injured when the Kalka Mail jumped the tracks near Fatehpur in Uttar Pradesh state, Brij Lal, a senior state police official said.

The main government-run hospital in Fatehpur was overrun by grieving relatives searching for their kin among the injured and the dead.

"I was listening to music on the upper berth when there was a loud bang followed by a thud. I was flung from my seat and hit my head against the side of the coach," passenger Subajit Ghosh, 20, said at a hospital, his head swathed in bandages.

Lal said the dead included two Swedish nationals. Another Swedish passenger was injured.

Linn Duvhammar, a spokeswoman for the Swedish Foreign Ministry, said that a Swedish man in his 20s had been taken to a hospital, but she was unable to confirm that any Swedes died.

Authorities were investigating the cause of the crash, said H.C. Joshi, a senior railway official. Newspapers reported the driver had slammed on the emergency brakes because cattle were on the tracks in front of the speeding train.

Volunteers and army soldiers worked through the night to pull the injured from the train's 12 shattered coaches. Officials said the train was carrying about 1,000 passengers, but the exact number was not known.

By Monday evening, 46 bodies had been identified and 19 of those had been handed over to family members, Lal said.

The train was headed to Kalka, in the foothills of the Himalayas, from Howrah, a station near Kolkata in eastern India.

Train services across northern India were disrupted. At least 62 trains were diverted to other routes and many others were canceled, said S. Mathur, a railway official.

India's railroad network is one of the largest in the world and carries about 14 million passengers each day. Accidents are common, with most blamed on poor maintenance and human error.

Police say a militant group was suspected of triggering a bomb that derailed another train Sunday hundreds of miles (kilometers) to the northeast.

More than 50 passengers were injured, four critically, when that train derailed in Rangiya, 31 miles (50 kilometers) west of Assam's capital, Gauhati, police said.

The Adivasi People's Army was suspected of triggering the bomb in the remote state of Assam, said G. P. Singh, inspector-general of police. No militant group has claimed responsibility.

More than 30 groups in the northeast have been fighting for decades for independence or greater autonomy in the region, which is about 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) east of New Delhi.

13-foot crocodile is captured alive in Palawan, Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A 13.7-foot (4.2 meter) saltwater crododile was captured alive in the Philippines on Monday and will be examined to determine if it killed a fisherman last month.

The male crocodile had to be tied, blindfolded and carried by more than 10 men. It was estimated to weigh up to 770 pounds (350 kilos).

The croc was captured in a trap set up along the Rio Tuba river to hunt for the crocodile that ate the fisherman's legs, said Alex Marcaida, a spokesman for an environment council in Palawan province.

The crocodile was caught near where the man's partial remains were found in Bataraza township of western Palawan province.

It will be induced to vomit to see if its stomach contains human tissues, though Marcaida said it might be too late to know for sure whether the croc killed the man. An 8-foot (2.4 meter) crocodile captured earlier had no trace of human tissues in its stomach.

Crocodylus porosus is the world's largest living reptile species, and full-grown males can reach the length of the one captured.

The species thrives in mangrove areas, and over the last 10 years, crocodiles have killed at least three people in Palawan, Marcaida said.

Wildlife workers only catch "problem crocodiles" but generally leave crocodiles in their natural habitat. Those caught are brought to a crocodile farm and wildlife center in the provincial capital, Puerto Princesa.

The killings may have occurred, he said, because the crocodiles' natural habitat have been disturbed. Some residents near where the crocodile was caught Monday have built closer to the mangrove areas, even putting up backyard piggeries that jut out onto the river, Marcaida added.

Crocodiles usually go back to where they had their last meal, he said, making it necessary to remove the crocodile.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Magnitude-6.2 earthquake rocks Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A magnitude-6.2 earthquake has struck off Negros Island in the Philippines, but there are no reports of injuries or damage. The quake, which struck at 20:47 GMT on Monday, had its epicenter 78 miles (126 kilometers) west-northwest of the city of Dumaguete on Negros Island and 357 miles (576 kilometers) south-southeast of Manila, the Philippine capital, at a depth of 11.8 miles (19 kilometers), according to the U.S. Geological survey. The quake was followed by a magnitude-5.1 aftershock about 15 minutes later. No tsunami warning was issued following the quake and there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

Armed men abduct 3 people in southern Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police say 14 armed men have abducted the 50-year-old Filipino wife of a German national, her son and her nephew from a southern island near a stronghold of al-Qaida-linked militants. Senior Supt. Edwin de Ocampo says the men snatched Gerfa Yeatts Lunsmann, her 14-year-old son and her 19-year-old nephew from a house in Zamboanga city's Tictabon island village before dawn Tuesday, fleeing on two motorized boats. De Ocampo says the abductors have not contacted authorities or made any ransom demands. The victims were visiting relatives. The woman's husband, who lives in the U.S. state of Virginia, is abroad. Tictabon is near Basilan island, a stronghold of al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf militants. Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels also have a presence in the area.

Kazakh police kill 9 gunmen

ALMATY, Kazakhstan (AP)—Police in Kazakhstan say nine gunmen have been killed in a special operation to detain an armed group suspected of being behind the killing of three Interior Ministry officers in June. The ministry said in a statement Monday one policeman died during last week's raid in the village of Kenkiyak in northwestern Kazakhstan. The government often waits days before reports on such raids. The last few weeks has seen a spike in violence in Kazakhstan that has been linked by some observers to the possible emergence of an Islamist-inspired terror campaign. Authorities in the Central Asian nation, which has little tradition of radical Islamism, have played down the possibility, saying that the police murders and two recent bombings have been masterminded by organized crime groups.

US aid cutoff followed by drone strike in Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—A suspected U.S. drone fired missiles at a house in northwestern Pakistan very close to the Afghan border Monday, killing 12 alleged militants, Pakistani intelligence officials said. The attack came a day after the Obama administration announced it was suspending $800 million in military aid to Pakistan because of strained ties. Monday's strike indicates the White House has no intention of stopping a program that has increasingly caused tension between the two countries. Elsewhere in Pakistan's northwest, a suicide bomber blew himself up as he was being searched at a political rally, killing seven people, including a 9-month-old girl, officials said.

World

Russian boat in trouble before fatal sinking

KAZAN, Russia (AP)—An aging cruise ship was severely overcrowded, had a malfunctioning engine and listed to one side before it sank in heavy wind and rain on a river east of Moscow, killing as many as 129 people, Russian officials said Monday.

River cruise boats are highly popular among Russian holiday-makers and the Bulgaria was carrying 208 people, including a large group of children, when it set off in stormy weather Sunday, officials said. It was only licensed to carry 120.

The ship was listing when the voyage began, possibly because of unemptied sewage tanks, and the port engine was malfunctioning, local investigators told state news agency RIA Novosti.

Survivors reported the ship leaned to starboard as it made a turn and a wave washed over the deck. It sank within about eight minutes, Igor Panishin, an official with the regional Emergencies Ministry, told RIA Novosti.

Survivors told Russian news agencies that about 50 children had gathered in the ship's entertainment hall shortly beforehand.

"It happened very fast. Hatches and windows were knocked out," said Vladimir Shirybyryv, who was waiting at a nearby port in Kazan for word about friends aboard.

AP

Rescue workers came back from place where a cruise ship sank in Kuibyshevsky Zaton, 120 km from Kazan, Russia, Monday, July 11, 2011, on the Volga River, in central Russia.

Seventy-nine people were rescued and 58 bodies, including those of five children, were recovered. Emergency teams and divers from neighboring regions were searching for the rest of the passengers but hopes were dimming that any had survived.

The ship sank about two miles (three kilometers) from shore in about 65 feet (20 meters) of water in a spot about 450 miles (750 kilometers) from Moscow, officials said.

One survivor told the national news channel Vesti 24 that other ships refused to come to their aid.

"Two ships did not stop, although we waved our hands," said the man in his 40s, who stood on the shore amid weeping passengers, some of them wrapped in towels and blankets. He held another man, who was weeping desperately. Transport Minister Igor Levitin was quoted by Russian news agencies as saying the captains of two ships that passed by and appeared to ignore distress calls would be prosecuted "in the harshest terms."

President Dmitry Medvedev on Monday demanded a thorough investigation and declared Tuesday a day of mourning. He also called for a full technical assessment of the condition of all Russia's passenger vessels.

The Volga, Europe's longest river, is up to 19 miles (30 kilometers) wide in places. The river is a popular tourist destination, especially in summer months.

The Bulgaria was built in 1955 in Czechoslovakia and belongs to a local tourism company. It was traveling from the town of Bulgar to the regional capital, Kazan.

A tourism expert said the lack of partitions inside the Bulgaria made it vulnerable to breaches.

"In case of an accident these ships sink within minutes," Dmitri Voropayev, head of the Samara Travel company, told RIA Novosti.

Russia's Tourism Industry Union said the ship had not been inspected or retrofitted for years, according to the Interfax news agency.

The Transportation Ministry said Russia has 1,568 registered passenger vessels—more than 100 are as old or older than the Bulgaria.

New allegations besiege Murdoch media empire

By CASSANDRA VINOGRAD and RAPHAEL G. SATTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON (AP)—Rupert Murdoch's media empire was besieged Monday by accusations that two more of his British newspapers engaged in hacking, deception and privacy violations that included accessing former Prime Minister Gordon Brown's bank account information and stealing the medical records of his seriously ill baby son.

His reporters were also accused of paying Queen Elizabeth II's bodyguards for secret information about the monarch, potentially jeopardizing her safety.

If proven, the charges by rival newspapers would dramatically increase the pressure on top Murdoch executives so far largely insulated from the scandal.

The public outrage began a week ago over wrongdoing at the Murdoch-owned best-selling tabloid News of the World. It has since disrupted the media titan's plans to take over highly profitable satellite broadcaster British Sky Broadcasting and slashed billions off the value of his global conglomerate News Corp.

In Britain, the scandal has cast a harsh light on the unparalleled political influence of Murdoch's collection of newspapers and is taking an increasing toll on Prime Minister David Cameron. The conservative leader's former communications chief, Andy Coulson, was arrested last week in connection with alleged payoffs to police when he was editor of News of the World.

With political pressure rising, a final decision on the $12 billion (7.5 billion pound) BSKyB takeover was delayed after Murdoch withdrew a promise to spin off news channel Sky News. It was seen as a tactical move that forced the British government to refer the bid to authorities charged with enforcing anti-monopoly laws, delaying any decision for months.

Analysts said Murdoch's move amounts to a favor for Cameron, sparing the prime minister the possibility of an embarrassing defeat in the House of Commons.

The takeover will be spared scrutiny during a period of once-unimaginable public criticism of Murdoch's British operation, News International, fueled by a relentless stream of new allegations of wrongdoing at its properties.

London's Evening Standard newspaper reported that corrupt royal protection officers sold personal details about Queen Elizabeth II - including phone numbers and tips about her movements and staff - to journalists working for the Murdoch tabloid News of the World, raising questions over a breach in national security.

The scandal spread beyond the now-defunct tabloid, with British media reporting Monday that Brown was one of thousands whose privacy was breached by News International papers, saying that his personal details - including his bank account and his son's medical records - had been stolen by people working for the Sun and the Sunday Times. None of the media cited sources.

WORLD BRIEFS

Cypriot defense min resigns after blast kills 12

MARI, Cyprus (AP)—Dozens of containers of gunpowder seized years ago from an Iranian cargo ship exploded on Cyprus' main naval base Monday in a massive blast that killed 12 people, wounded 62 and wrecked a major power station, causing extensive blackouts. The head of the island nation's navy, Commodore Andreas Ioannides, was killed and its defense minister and military chief resigned. Ioannides' son claimed top officials had repeatedly ignored his father's warnings that the gunpowder was stored unsafely. A Cypriot official said right after the blast that a brush fire had ignited more than 90 containers confiscated in 2009 from a ship heading from Iran to Syria.

Syrian protesters attack US, French embassies

BEIRUT (AP)—Hundreds of Syrian government supporters attacked the U.S. Embassy in Damascus Monday, smashing windows and spray-painting walls with obscenities and graffiti that called the American ambassador a "dog." Guards at the French Embassy fired in the air to ward off another group of protesters. The sharp escalation in tensions followed a visit last week by the American and French ambassadors to the city of Hama, a stronghold of opposition to authoritarian President Bashar Assad. Syrian authorities were angered by the visit and American Ambassador Robert Ford's harsh criticism afterward of the government crackdown on a four-month-old uprising. Ford's residence was also attacked on Monday.

Chavez says cancer fight 'my longest walk'

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez turned to philosophy and Twitter to describe his efforts to beat cancer on Monday, summoning the words of German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche. "I find myself before my highest mountain and my longest walk," Chavez said in a message posted on his Twitter account. "That's how Zarathustra spoke!" That quoted a passage from Nietzsche's treatise "Thus Spoke Zarathustra: A Book for All and None." Nietzsche's book focuses on a prophet who reflects on his life as he descends from a mountain retreat and returns to mix with mankind. Chavez occasionally quotes the German philosopher in his speeches.

Brazil minister calls for sex tour investigation

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Brazil is investigating allegations that an American fishing tour operator was using expeditions in the Amazon to cover up the sexual exploitation of underage indigenous girls, the country's minister for women's rights said Monday. "The country cannot stand idly by before allegations of this sort," Iriny Lopes told the Associated Press. Lopes met Monday with human rights minister Maria do Rosario Nunes and investigators for the federal police and prosecutors to discuss allegations of sexual tourism in the Amazon region. She proposed enacting an agreement between the federal government and the states that form the Amazon region to increase vigilance over tourism in the area.

Spain claims world's first double leg transplant

MADRID (AP)—Doctors in Spain have carried out the world's first double leg transplant, giving new lower limbs to a patient who lost both legs at mid-thigh in an accident, officials said Monday.

The Valencia regional government said the surgical team was led by Dr. Pedro Cavadas, who in 2009 carried out Spain's first face transplant—the first anywhere to include a new tongue and jaw.

The government statement said the operation at La Fe Hospital in Valencia was extremely complex and Cavadas will wait at least 48 hours to release more information.

"Today we can say a landmark has been reached," said Dr. Rafael Matesanz, director of the National Transplant Organization.

Another official at the organization, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with departmental policy, said the operation began Sunday night, and lasted about 13 or 14 hours.

The official would not give details as to how the patient is doing, other than to say if the limbs are rejected this will happen more or less immediately. He added that it will be a month or so before doctors know how successful the surgery has been.

Doctors originally tried to give the patient artificial legs, but the operation was unsuccessful as the patient had lost them so high.

Focus

The man who hunted Osama bin Laden

By ADAM GOLDMAN and MATT APUZZO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PETE SOUZA/THE WHITE HOUSE/MCT

President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden, along with members of the national security team, receive an update on the mission against Osama bin Laden in the Situation Room of the White House in Washington, D.C., May 1, 2011. Seated, from left, are: Brig. Gen. Marshall B. "Brad" Webb, Assistant Commanding General, Joint Special Operations Command; Deputy National Security Adviser Denis McDonough; Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton; and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates. Standing, from left, are: Adm. Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; National Security Adviser Tom Donilon; Chief of Staff Bill Daley; Tony Binken, National Security Advisor to the Vice President; Audrey Tomason Director for Counterterrorism; John Brennan, Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism; and Director of National Intelligence James Clapper. Editor's Note: A classified document seen in this photograph has been obscured.

After Navy SEALs killed Osama bin Laden, the White House released a photo of President Barack Obama and his Cabinet inside the Situation Room, watching the daring raid unfold.

Hidden from view, standing just outside the frame of that now-famous photograph was a career CIA analyst. In the hunt for the world's most-wanted terrorist, there may have been no one more important. His job for nearly a decade was finding the al-Qaida leader.

The analyst was the first to put in writing last summer that the CIA might have a legitimate lead on finding bin Laden. He oversaw the collection of clues that led the agency to a fortified compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan. His was among the most confident voices telling Obama that bin Laden was probably behind those walls.

The CIA will not permit him to speak with reporters. But interviews with former and current U.S. intelligence officials reveal a story of quiet persistence and continuity that led to the greatest counterterrorism success in the history of the CIA. Nearly all the officials insisted on anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to reporters or because they did not want their names linked to the bin Laden operation.

The Associated Press has agreed to the CIA's request not to publish his full name and withhold certain biographical details so that he would not become a target for retribution.

Call him John, his middle name.

John was among the hundreds of people who poured into the CIA's Counterterrorism Center after the Sept. 11 attacks, bringing fresh eyes and energy to the fight.

He had been a standout in the agency's Russian and Balkan departments. When Vladimir Putin was coming to power in Russia, for instance, John pulled together details overlooked by others and wrote what some colleagues considered the definitive profile of Putin. He challenged some of the agency's conventional wisdom about Putin's KGB background and painted a much fuller portrait of the man who would come to dominate Russian politics.

That ability to spot the importance of seemingly insignificant details, to weave disparate strands of information into a meaningful story, gave him a particular knack for hunting terrorists.

"He could always give you the broader implications of all these details we were amassing," said John McLaughlin, who as CIA deputy director was briefed regularly by John in the mornings after the 2001 attacks.

From 2003, when he joined the counterterrorism center, through 2005, John was one of the driving forces behind the most successful string of counterterrorism captures in the fight against terrorism: Abu Zubaydah, Abd al-Nashiri, Khalid Sheik Mohammed, Ramzi bin Alshib, Hambali and Faraj al-Libi.

But there was no greater prize than finding bin Laden.

Bin Laden had slipped away from U.S. forces in the Afghan mountains of Tora Bora in 2001, and the CIA believed he had taken shelter in the lawless tribal areas of Pakistan. In 2006, the agency mounted Operation Cannonball, an effort to establish bases in the tribal regions and find bin Laden. Even with all its money and resources, the CIA could not locate its prime target.

AP ENTERPRISE

By then, the agency was on its third director since Sept. 11, 2001. John had outlasted many of his direct supervisors who retired or went on to other jobs. The CIA doesn't like to keep its people in one spot for too long. They become jaded. They start missing things.

John didn't want to leave. He'd always been persistent. In college, he walked on to a Division I basketball team and hustled his way into a rotation full of scholarship players.

The CIA offered to promote him and move him somewhere else. John wanted to keep the bin Laden file.

He examined and re-examined every aspect of bin Laden's life. How did he live while hiding in Sudan? With whom did he surround himself while living in Kandahar, Afghanistan? What would a bin Laden hideout look like today?

The CIA had a list of potential leads, associates and family members who might have access to bin Laden.

"Just keep working that list bit by bit," one senior intelligence official recalls John telling his team. "He's there somewhere. We'll get there."

John rose through the ranks of the counterterrorism center, but because of his nearly unrivaled experience, he always had influence beyond his title. One former boss confessed that he didn't know exactly what John's position was.

"I knew he was the guy in the room I always listened to," the official said.

While he was shepherding the hunt for bin Laden, John also was pushing to expand the Predator program, the agency's use of unmanned airplanes to launch missiles at terrorists. The CIA largely confined those strikes to targets along Pakistan's border with Afghanistan. But in late 2007 and early 2008, John said the CIA needed to carry out those attacks deeper inside Pakistan.

It was a risky move. Pakistan was an important but shaky ally. John's analysts saw an increase in the number of Westerners training in Pakistani terrorist camps. John worried that those men would soon start showing up on U.S. soil.

See THE MAN on Page 18

Campus Life

MCT

Nicolette Ivezaj hopes to transfer from Macomb Community College in Warren, Michigan, to Michigan State but is not sure she will have the finances for it. She is shown on June 23, 2011.

Raising US graduation rates meeting stubborn obstacles

By JON MARCUS
THE HECHINGER REPORT

NEW YORK—President Barack Obama's efforts to increase the percentage of Americans with college degrees is running into some of the same stubborn obstacles that have stymied educators, politicians, researchers and philanthropic foundations for years.

While a few efforts have succeeded in identifying barriers to graduation, research shows that they have yet to bring widespread improvement.

Achieving the Dream, a national nonprofit dedicated to helping more community college students succeed, began seven years ago with pilot programs at 26 community colleges, and has since expanded to 160. The program has cost more than $76 million, but a review released in February by the social policy organization MDRC found there has been no increase in graduation rates as a result.

"We have not found any magic bullets," says Thomas Brock, MDRC's director of policy for postsecondary education. "The budget-cutting and the difficulty students are having getting into classes—those are pushing back against the goal."

Carol Lincoln, Achieving the Dream's senior vice president, concedes that raising graduation rates "is like turning a 700-ton ship. People expect quick fixes. But we're talking decades in terms of significant results across the board."

The graduation problem isn't generally evident at elite colleges and universities, both private and public, whose graduation rates are comparatively high. It's concentrated at community colleges and lower-tier public universities, which enroll most of America's students. Such institutions increasingly serve the fastest-growing segment of American college enrollment: low-income, nonwhite, non-native-English-speaking students who are the first in their families to go to college.

Community colleges enroll much higher percentages of students who work full or part time and are considered at risk for dropping out—and who also are more likely to have children at home and have interrupted their education, in some cases for years.

In addition, the vast majority arrives unprepared for college-level work, with 60 percent or more steered into remedial education, according to Thomas Bailey, director of the Community College Research Center at Teachers College, Columbia University.

"They don't have money, they're working, they're the people who are least likely to afford the tuition increases," says Stan Jones, president of Complete College America, a national nonprofit working to increase the number of Americans with a college degree or credential. "We have a lot of work to do so that we don't fail them."

Community colleges will have to "engage in broad institutional reform" to increase the number of students who earn degrees and certificates, according to a series of papers published this year by the Community College Research Center.

Improving graduation rates, says Brock of MDRC, remains "a long-term process. A lot of colleges have made small changes, mostly as pilot programs, to come up with better strategies for serving students, but what has been lacking is really systemic change."

Still, says Brock, "there is momentum. A lot of institutions are focused now on this."

Here's a look at some recent efforts:

■ The City University of New York waives tuition for needy students, gives them free subway passes and textbooks, and ensures smaller classes. It requires full-time study and provides advisers and career counselors to improve completion rates. In a pilot program involving some 300 students in six community colleges, 30 percent earned their associate degrees within two years, and nearly 60 percent did so within three years. (By comparison, just 12 percent of students who weren't in the program got their associate degrees within two years, whereas 24 percent did within three years.)

■ Zane State College in Ohio added advanced courses along with a special counseling program for new students after discovering it was losing not only its lowest-performing students but also its highest-performing ones. It saw as much as a 24 percent increase in the number who finished their first year.

■ College of the Ouachitas in Arkansas changed its culture from recruiting students to fill seats to making sure they earned their associate degrees once there. The proportion of students there who graduate within three years has increased from 9 percent in 2001 to 25 percent this year.

THE MAN

From Page 17

"We've got to act," John said, a former senior intelligence official recalls. "There's no explaining inaction."

John took the analysis to then CIA Director Michael Hayden, who agreed and took the recommendation to President George W. Bush. In the last months of the Bush administration, the CIA began striking deeper inside Pakistan. Obama immediately adopted the same strategy and stepped up the pace. Recent attacks have killed al-Qaida's No. 3 official, Mustafa Abu al-Yazid, and Pakistani Taliban leader Baitullah Mehsud.

All the while, John's team was working the list of bin Laden leads. In 2007, a female colleague whom the AP has also agreed not to identify decided to zero in on a man known as Abu Ahmed al-Kuwaiti, a nom de guerre. Other terrorists had identified al-Kuwaiti as an important courier for al-Qaida's upper echelon, and she believed that finding him might help lead to bin Laden.

"They had their teeth clenched on this and they weren't going to let go," McLaughlin said of John and his team. "This was an obsession."

It took three years, but in August 2010, al-Kuwaiti turned up on a National Security Agency wiretap. The female analyst, who had studied journalism at a Big Ten university, tapped out a memo for John, "Closing in on Bin Laden Courier," saying her team believed al-Kuwaiti was somewhere on the outskirts of Islamabad.

As the CIA homed in on al-Kuwaiti, John's team continually updated the memo with fresh information. Everyone knew that anything with bin Laden's name on it would shoot right to the director's desk and invite scrutiny, so the early drafts played down hopes that the courier would lead to bin Laden. But John saw the bigger picture. The hunt for al-Kuwaiti was effectively the hunt for bin Laden, and he was not afraid to say so.

The revised memo was finished in September 2010. John, by then deputy chief of the Pakistan-Afghanistan Department, emailed it to those who needed to know. The title was "Anatomy of a Lead."

As expected, the memo immediately became a hot topic inside CIA headquarters and Director Leon Panetta wanted to know more. John never overpromised, colleagues recall, but he was unafraid to say there was a good chance this might be the break the agency was looking for.

The CIA tracked al-Kuwaiti to a walled compound in Abbottabad. If bin Laden was hiding there, in a busy suburb not far from Pakistan's military academy, it challenged much of what the agency had assumed about his hideout.

But John said it wasn't that farfetched. Drawing on what he knew about bin Laden's earlier hideouts, he said it made sense that bin Laden had surrounded himself only with his couriers and family and did not use phones or the Internet. The CIA knew that top al-Qaida operatives had lived in urban areas before.

A cautious Panetta took the information to Obama, but there was much more work to be done.

The government tried everything to figure out who was in that compound.

In a small house nearby, the CIA put people who would fit in and not draw any attention. They watched and waited but turned up nothing definitive. Satellites captured images of a tall man walking the grounds of the compound, but never got a look at his face.

Again and again, John and his team asked themselves who else might be living in that compound. They came up with five or six alternatives; bin Laden was always the best explanation.

This went on for months. By about February, John told his bosses, including Panetta, that the CIA could keep trying, but the information was unlikely to get any better. He told Panetta this might be their best chance to find bin Laden and it would not last forever. Panetta made that same point to the president

Panetta held regular meetings on the hunt, often concluding with an around-the-table poll: How sure are you that this is bin Laden?

John was always bullish, rating his confidence as high as 80 percent.

Others weren't so sure, especially those who had been in the room for operations that went bad. Not two years earlier, the CIA thought it had an informant who could lead him to bin Laden's deputy. That man blew himself up at a base in Khost, Afghanistan, killing seven CIA employees and injuring six others.

That didn't come up in the meetings with Panetta, a senior intelligence official said. But everyone knew the risk the CIA was taking if it told the president that bin Laden was in Abbottabad and was wrong.

"We all knew that if he wasn't there and this was a disaster, certainly there would be consequences," the official recalled.

John was among several CIA officials who repeatedly briefed Obama and others at the White House. Current and former officials involved in the discussions said John had a coolness and a reassuring confidence.

By April, the president had decided to send the Navy SEALs to assault the compound.

Though the plan was in motion, John went back to his team, a senior intelligence official said.

"Right up to the last hour," he told them, "if we get any piece of information that suggests it's not him, somebody has to raise their hand before we risk American lives."

Nobody did. Inside the Situation Room, the analyst who was barely known outside the close-knit intelligence world took his place alongside the nation's top security officials, the household names and well-known faces of Washington.

An agonizing 40 minutes after Navy SEALs stormed the compound, the report came back: Bin Laden was dead.

John and his team had guessed correctly, taking an intellectual risk based on incomplete information. It was a gamble that ended a decade of disappointment. Later, Champagne was uncorked back at the CIA, where those in the Counterterrorism Center who had targeted bin Laden for so long celebrated. John's team reveled in the moment.

Two days after bin Laden's death, John accompanied Panetta to Capitol Hill. The Senate Intelligence Committee wanted a full briefing on the successful mission. At one point in the private session, Panetta turned to the man whose counterterrorism resume spanned four CIA directors.

He began to speak, about the operation and about the years of intelligence it was based on. And as he spoke about the mission that had become his career, the calm, collected analyst paused, and he choked up.

Life & Style

Science seeks ways to take sting out of sunburn

WASHINGTON (AP)—If you've hit the beach, chances are you've experienced an unfortunate rite of summer: The sunburn. Skin so swollen it hurts to bend. The heat that rises from reddened shoulders. The "ow, ow, ow" from the shower after you'd thought the pain had faded.

For all the creams that promise to soothe, there aren't super treatments for a sunburn. Dermatologists say the best bet: Some of the same pills you pop for a headache—like the ibuprofen found in Motrin and Advil, or naproxen brands such as Aleve.

If that sounds too simple, well, scientists don't know exactly what causes this kind of touch-sensitive pain. But research is getting them closer to some answers.

British scientists found a clue in some healthy people who volunteered to be sunburned for science. Don't worry—they controlled the beams of ultraviolet light so that only a small patch of the volunteers' arms got a medium burn, just enough for a unique kind of testing.

One reason sunburns are so common is that by the time you see pink and head indoors, more damage already is brewing. Unlike an immediate burn from, say, touching a hot stove, a sunburn's pain is delayed as the red darkens over the next 24 to 48 hours.

Researchers from Kings College London tracked how their volunteers' sunburned skin became more sensitive. At the peak of pain, they cut away a small bit of damaged skin to analyze all the biochemical changes inside—and found a protein that's responsible for triggering the cascade of pain and redness.

A woman sunbathes next to a fountain in downtown Milan, Monday, July 11, 2011. AP

The protein summons inflammation-causing immune cells to the damaged spot as sunburned skin cells die off. Its activity increased more than did other pain-related chemicals as the sunburn worsened, the researchers reported last week the journal Science Translational Medicine.

It took further experiments with rats to show the molecule, named CXCL5, was a key culprit. Most intriguing, injecting rats' sunburned feet with a substance that tamped down the protein also tamped down the pain, a finding that might lead to new medications. The researchers will next study whether the protein plays a role in more long-lasting types of pain.

What about today's sunburns? About a third of adults get one each year, and two-thirds of them have more than one, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That's a bigger problem than pain—sunburns are believed to increase risk of the most serious type of skin cancer, melanoma. There aren't good figures on how often children get sunburned, but their tender skin can burn especially easily.

While water and sand reflect UV rays to increase exposure, it's not just the beachgoer who's at risk. A sunburn can sneak up on anyone, from the kids playing T-ball and their watching families to the afternoon gardener.

First-degree sunburns tend to peel in a few days. But more severe second-degree burns can blister and even require a doctor's care, especially if they cover large areas or come with fever and chills, says Dr. Roger Ceilley of the American Academy of Dermatology and the University of Iowa. A bad burn hinders how well your body cools itself, so it's important to cool down and keep hydrated.

To self-treat the pain, take ibuprofen or similar over-the-counter painkillers known as NSAIDs within a few hours of reddening skin, Ceilley advises. Those pills fight various kinds of inflammation. While they may not directly block the pain-causing protein the British researchers discovered, they do act on related pain chemicals, he notes.

But don't use those pills before going in the sun; they're among a host of medicines that can make your skin more sun-sensitive.

Cool compresses can soothe, and some patients find relief from aloe. But "you don't want to put a lot of heavy ointments on," Ceilley cautions. They can trap in heat.

At Wake Forest University, dermatology professor Dr. Steven Feldman also advises anesthetic sprays to numb the area, and for more serious burns a hydrocortisone cream.

But more important, "Don't get a sunburn," Feldman stresses. The advice:

■ Stay out of direct sun when it's most intense, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

■ When you are out, wear sun-protective clothing and seek shade such as beach umbrellas. Feldman likes to tell of the dermatologists' convention in Hawaii where beachgoers wore long-sleeved swim cover-ups and big hats.

■ Don't forget the sunscreen, especially on the face, hands and arms that are exposed to sun just about every day.

Sunscreen isn't a substitute for the first two tips, Feldman warns, because it doesn't guarantee protection if you stay out too long, use too little or miss a spot.

Still, picking a sunscreen should get less confusing next summer when new government regulations kick in. Those rules will prohibit claims like "waterproof"—you do need to reapply after swimming or sweating—and will assure protection against both types of skin-damaging UV rays.

Betty Ford wanted talk of politics at funeral

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Former first lady Betty Ford, always known for her take charge attitude, chose the people who will eulogize her and the subjects they would discuss, focusing on the power of friendship to mend political differences even in these hyper-partisan times.

Ford, who died on Friday at 93, chose former first lady Rosalynn Carter and journalist Cokie Roberts from the political realm and a former director of her Betty Ford Center to address her passion for helping others overcome substance and alcohol abuse.

First lady Michelle Obama will also be attending along with former first ladies, Nancy Reagan and Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Roberts, a commentator on National Public Radio and member of a noted political family, said Ford asked her five years ago to talk about a time in Washington when Democrats and Republicans were friends and partisan politics did not paralyze government.

Ford's instructions for her eulogy pointed to the strong friendship that developed when her husband, Republican Gerald R. Ford, was House minority leader and Roberts' father, Democratic Congressman Hale Boggs, was majority leader.

Ford

"Mrs. Ford was very clear about what she wanted me to say," Roberts said. "She wanted me to talk about Washington the way it used to be. She knew there were people back then who were wildly partisan, but not as many as today.

"They were friends and that was what made government possible," said Roberts, adding that the topic seems particularly appropriate this week when the two parties are divided over dealing with the debt ceiling.

Another speaker at Tuesday's funeral in Palm Desert who is symbolic of the bipartisan past will be Mrs. Carter. She and President Jimmy Carter became close friends with the Fords after Carter defeated Gerald Ford for the presidency in 1976.

Carter, the former president, spoke of their friendship at President Ford's funeral in 2007.

The two families were so close that before his death, Ford asked the Carters to join his wife aboard Air Force One, which flew his body to its final resting place in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Roberts said she expects Mrs. Carter to talk about life in the White House and the important role of first ladies in "greasing the wheels" for their husbands' accomplishments by forging bipartisan friendships.

Among the notable guests will be former California first lady Maria Shriver as well as former President Bill Clinton. The four Ford children will attend both this ceremony and another in Grand Rapids, Mich. on Thursday.

Alongside Carter and Ford as speakers will be former Betty Ford Center official Geoffrey Mason.

Mason, a former member of the center's board of directors, is expected to extoll Mrs. Ford's vision and determination in building a substance abuse and alcohol treatment center after her own recovery.

Ford's funeral will be similar to the final tributes for her husband. The ceremony, to be held at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Palm Desert, is billed as a private affair. Many luminaries are due but a full guest list was immediately available.

Following the funeral, members of the public will be invited to file past her casket and sign a guest book until midnight.

On Wednesday, her body will be flown to Grand Rapids where her husband is interred at the Gerald Ford Presidential Museum. At another church service Thursday, Lynne Cheney, wife of former Vice President Dick Cheney, and historian Richard Norton Smith will eulogize her.

Later Thursday, her body will be interred at the museum on the day that would have been Gerald Ford's 98th birthday.

Patrick Kennedy to wed this weekend at family home

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island (AP)—Former U.S. congressman Patrick Kennedy and his fiancee plan to be married this week at a private wedding ceremony at the Kennedy family's Cape Cod compound.

The 43-year-old Kennedy will wed New Jersey school teacher Amy Petitgout on Friday at what Kennedy's spokeswoman says will be a small, intimate event.

Kennedy is the son of the late Massachusetts Sen. Edward Kennedy. He represented Rhode Island's 1st Congressional District as a Democrat for 16 years. Since leaving Congress in January, he has been named a visiting fellow at Brown University and has campaigned to improve brain research.

The wedding will be closed to the press. It's to be held at the Kennedy compound in Hyannis, Massachusetts. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer is set to officiate.

Crystal Reed's artistic ambitions lead her to roles in TV, movies

By B.J. HAMMERSTEIN
DETROIT FREE PRESS

DETROIT—Crystal Reed has traveled a long way in a short time to achieve her dream of becoming an actress.

"If fame happens, so be it, but that's not ever something that is driving me," says Reed, whose artistic ambitions helped her land the female lead in MTV's newest high-profile scripted series, "Teen Wolf," which debuted June 5.

To find success, the twentysomething Michigander says she saved as much money as she could and, "without knowing a soul," moved from her temporary Chicago digs to Los Angeles just two years ago.

"I've never had a backup plan; there's no Plan B," she says. "I got into acting because I love it. It's my passion, and it's the only thing I can do."

Reed is about to show off those acting chops on a grand scale when one of the summer's most-anticipated comedies, "Crazy, Stupid, Love" opens July 29. Although she has a small part in the ensemble movie, Reed appears alongside Steve Carell and Ryan Gosling, two of the industry's biggest and most respected stars.

"Working with both Steve and Ryan in the same scene, one that we ended up improvising, is the highlight of my acting career thus far," she says.

Reed's performing roots were laid down in Michigan. She attended Dort Elementary School in Roseville ("The Dolphins are very intimidating!"), Roseville Junior High and Roseville High School, where she was president of the school's drama club. Reed fell in love with theater after she performed in a series of local and high school productions, including "Annie" and "Grease."

Mary Cooney, a theater department lecturer for Wayne State University, says she recalls sensing something special in Reed in the Intro to Theater class she taught.

"What I remember, especially, is how very focused and dedicated she was," Cooney says. "Sometimes when people first get to college they think of it as an extension of high school and aren't very disciplined, but Crystal, from the moment she got there, took theater very seriously."

Reed left Wayne State before finishing her bachelor's degree in fine arts and moved to Chicago. There, she continued to take improv and theater classes at places like Second City, iO Chicago Theater and Act One Studios. But it was a brush with Batman that set her destiny in motion.

"I came really close to getting a role on 'The Dark Knight' when it was filming in Chicago" in 2007," she says. "One morning I woke up and while holding my cup of coffee I looked outside of my apartment while they were shooting. I had an epiphany. If I'm serious about being in film, I have to move to Los Angeles."

MCT

Roseville, Michigan's Crystal Reed has traveled a long way in a short time to achieve her dream of becoming an actress. Here, Reed poses for a photo at the Carpenter Lake Nature Preserve in Southfield, Michigan on June 26, 2011.

Christine Reed, Crystal's mother, says she was definitely worried about her only daughter being on her own in Hollywood, but she tried to support her decisions.

"We always knew that Crystal had a lot of potential and could do anything she wanted," she says. "She really showed a maturity toward and worked so hard toward her goals. I give her a lot of credit because she did this all herself."

Encounters with creepy agent types and endless auditions became part of her everyday L.A. existence. About four months after she moved, however, she caught the eye of MTV executives after landing the role of "hot theater chick" in a 2010 episode of the network's "The Hard Times of RJ Berger." That led to her "Teen Wolf" casting.

"Teen Wolf" creator Jeff Davis says Reed was the first of hundreds of actors they saw for the role of Allison Argent, the girlfriend to Scott McCall, the teen-turned-wolf played by Tyler Posey.

"Many people come to L.A. seeking fame and fortune and they just don't have that special 'it' quality," he says. "Crystal, she had 'it.' During her audition she brought us to tears and had us laughing and is stunningly beautiful and displayed these amazing instincts. Every other girl who came in, I remember, I just kept saying that they're just not as good as Crystal."

Davis says Reed has gone beyond his expectations, and that she's a real pro whose immense talents are matched by her work ethic.

"It took me about 15 years before I could write a decent script and Crystal, after just acting in a handful of things, has a mental agility that is so impressive. She can play the hard dramatic scenes, do comedy and turn it up when it comes to romance. I hope that we'll all be together making 'Teen Wolf' for a while, but whatever she sets her mind to, she'll find success."

Surprises in store on MTV's 'Teen Wolf'

By B.J. HAMMERSTEIN
DETROIT FREE PRESS

Crystal Reed's "Teen Wolf" character Allison Argent doesn't know it yet, but her teenager-in-love story is about to take a very creepy supernatural twist.

Reed costars on MTV's new scripted series, which debuted June 5 with 2.2 million viewers. Tyler Posey is Scott McCall, the teenaged boy whose life gets a little hairy after he's attacked by a werewolf.

While there are some similarities to the 1985 feature film that starred Michael J. Fox, the 2011 small-screen reboot is a much darker interpretation filled with genuine scares, sexy young stars and a brewing "Romeo and Juliet"-style feud between Allison's werewolf-hunting family and the beastly bunch Scott is quickly learning about.

Reed says she can't give away any "Teen Wolf" secrets, but Allison's world is about to get very complicated.

"She has no clue that the guy she falls in love with is a werewolf and that her family aren't selling weapons to the government like her father says, but that they're actually werewolf hunters," she says.

"As the season goes on she's stuck in the middle of all these lies and she starts to realize things aren't adding up. Plus, she's really confused as she's dealing with all the usual teenage problems of fitting in, growing up, being in love. And then, toward the end, she starts to figure things out and has to make some really tough choices involving her family, love and honor."

The June 27 episode, the fifth of the season, scored about 1.7 million viewers during its 10 p.m. EDT debut time slot, after landing 1.8 million the previous week. With the first season hitting its halfway point, both Reed and the series received nominations two weeks ago in the 2011 Teen Choice Awards.

"Teen Wolf" creator Jeff Davis says that MTV will likely reveal in the next couple weeks whether the show will get a second season.

"Crystal's work in the series and what Tyler has done, we're all very proud," he says. "And we're having a tricky time gauging the viewer ratings because it's on like 20 times a week, but we're catching on, and if viewers continue to stick around they'll see some epic action and phenomenal work in episodes 10, 11, 12."

Gloriana to continue despite member's departure

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The members of Gloriana found out like the rest of us that band mate Cheyenne Kimball was leaving the group: on Twitter.

Singer Tom Gossin told The Associated Press that Kimball took off after their show on Friday without a word and didn't respond to their emails. The next time they heard from her was a post on the group's Twitter page Saturday, saying she was leaving the band. The tweet has since been deleted.

"A band is a lot like a relationship," Gossin said. "Throughout the whole four years of this band there's always ups and downs. It wasn't particularly a down moment or anything like that. So, yeah, it was a big surprise."

Gloriana, formed in 2008, also includes Gossin's brother, Mike, and Rachel Reinert. They've been on tour this summer and are preparing to release their second studio album this fall. Gloriana won the Academy of Country Music's top new vocal group award last year. Their hits include "Wild at Heart" and "How Far Do You Wanna Go."

Gossin said there were no obvious signs from Kimball leading up to her departure, which makes it all the more confusing for the rest of the band. But ultimately, the band is determined to press on with their tour and new album.

"We're sad," he said. "It's definitely kind of shaken things up, for sure. It's kind of a weird time for this to happen. The main feeling now is actually positive. We're going to move forward and start a new chapter where everyone in Gloriana is fully committed. That, in a way, feels really good to know. I'm sure we're going to grow from all this and become stronger for it ultimately."

To complicate matters, Gloriana had already finished the new album and Kimball is an integral part of it. Gossin said there will be some changes made, but the creative decisions still need to be ironed out.

"There's just absolutely no way that the three of us would bail on that," Gossin said.

"Whether it's being voiced or not, if one person's unhappy, it's never a good thing to stay. Although, the way this came about was very abrupt and not really the way we'd like. She's been a member of our family for the past four years. Anyone that close to me, I would never want them to be unhappy. So we really hope that this decision leads her to find her happiness, whatever that is."

The band released a statement to fans on their website Monday addressing Kimball's departure.

"We just really want our fans to know that of course this is a hiccup, but we're 150 percent moving forward with the album, the single, the tour, and we're going to keep the Gloriana train rolling," he said.

They'll release the video for their new single "Wanna Take You Home" this week as planned.

William, Kate to keep low profile after trip

LONDON (AP)—The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge plan to keep a low profile for the rest of the year as they adapt to married life, palace officials said Tuesday.

Prince William and his bride Catherine—who returned to Britain Monday after a whirlwind trip to Canada and the U.S.—now wanted to "go under the radar" and settle down in their North Wales home, St. James's Palace said.

Apart from enjoying some quality time together away from the limelight, the couple also did not want to overshadow Queen Elizabeth II as she approaches her Diamond Jubilee next year, the palace said.

"They are very conscious to make sure that the run-up to 2012 is the queen's year. She quite rightly should be in spotlight," a spokesman said on the customary condition of anonymity.

"They have the rest of their lives to be public figures and working hard on behalf of the Queen and want to keep things on a level and enjoy their marriage," he added.

William also has to return to his work as a Royal Air Force Search and Rescue helicopter pilot in order to qualify for a captaincy, while his wife will spend her time planning which good causes she wants to become involved with and learning about her husband's charitable interests.

The couple married on April 29 in London's Westminster Abbey.

The palace spokesman said that the queen and her husband, Prince Philip, were supportive of the couple's plans to keep a low profile for the next few months.

The queen and her husband also spent their early married years living a quiet life in Malta, where Philip was based as a Royal Navy officer.

It's a boy for Kate Hudson, rocker fiance Bellamy

In a May 8, 2011 file photo Kate Hudson, a cast member in "Something Borrowed," poses at the premiere of the film in Los Angeles.

AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kate Hudson is a mom again, and the father is another rocker.

Hudson's rep said Sunday that Hudson and fiance Matt Bellamy, singer with the British band Muse, are new parents.

Publicist Brad Cafarelli tells The Associated Press in an email that "Matthew and Kate welcomed a healthy baby boy" Saturday in Los Angeles.

The birth gives a brother to Hudson's other son, 7-year-old Ryder, whose father is Black Crowes lead singer Chris Robinson. And it means Hudson's mother Goldie Hawn is a grandmother again.

Hudson and Robinson divorced in 2007. She and Bellamy got engaged in April.

The 32-year-old actress was nominated for an Oscar for 2000's "Almost Famous," and has since appeared in several romantic comedies including "Fools Gold" and "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days."

France honors US entertainer Liza Minnelli

PARIS (AP)—France has paid tribute to storied songstress Liza Minnelli, making the "Cabaret" star an officer in the country's Legion of Honor.

French Culture Minister Frederic Mitterrand pinned the red-ribboned medal on Minnelli's lapel in an emotional ceremony in a gilded hall Monday.

Minnelli called the distinction "a dream come true" and said she was "honored to be a part of France, a part of Paris."

A visibly moved Minnelli told spectators at the ceremony: "Thank you for watching me, thank you for caring about me."

The daughter of Hollywood star Judy Garland and director Vincente Minnelli, the entertainer won an Oscar for her role in the hit 1972 film "Cabaret." She's also the recipient of an Emmy and several Golden Globe and Tony Awards.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

ABC draws big audience for Jaycee Dugard interview

NEW YORK (AP)—The story of a California woman kidnapped and held prisoner by a sex offender for 18 years has proven compelling for television viewers. The Nielsen Co. says 14.8 million people watched ABC's Diane Sawyer interview Jaycee Dugard in a two-hour special Sunday. Dugard, who was 11 when she was kidnapped and is now 31, has a memoir about her experience being published on Tuesday. The audience was more than triple the number of people who watched a couple of drama reruns on ABC the previous Sunday night. It was the most-watched summertime newsmagazine since a 2004 episode of "60 Minutes." It was also the most-watched Sunday night program on ABC, not including sports, since the Academy Awards in February.

Carrie and Brad to host CMA Awards a 4th time

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Carrie Underwood and Brad Paisley will be back together again in November. They've been picked to host the Country Music Association Awards for a fourth straight year. The 45th annual awards will be aired live Nov. 9 from Nashville's Bridgestone Arena on ABC. Paisley is the reigning CMA entertainer of the year. Paisley and Underwood have won 19 CMA awards between them. As Paisley notes in a news release announcing their return, they've achieved a comic chemistry over the years with Underwood's class balancing "my non-class act. I'll try my best to not mess it up." The CMA Awards are the most-watched country awards show. More than 16 million viewers tuned in last year.

Emmy-winning 'Dick Van Dyke Show' writer dies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Emmy-winning writer Sam Denoff, who wrote for TV's "The Dick Van Dyke Show" and helped create the Marlo Thomas comedy "That Girl," has died in Los Angeles at 83. Denoff's son Douglas tells the Los Angeles Times that his father, who had Alzheimer's disease, died Friday at home in Brentwood. Denoff and writing partner Bill Persky had written for Steve Allen and Andy Williams television shows as well as the series "McHale's Navy" when they sold a script for "The Dick Van Dyke Show," which ran on CBS from 1961 to 1966. Persky and Denoff went on to share two Emmys for that series. Marlo Thomas wanted the duo to write a series for her and "That Girl" was born. The ABC series ran from 1966 to 1971.

'Jersey Shore' star OK'd for pretrial intervention

TOMS RIVER, N.J. (AP)—"Jersey Shore" cast member Ronnie Ortiz-Magro has been admitted into a pretrial intervention program that will allow him to avoid a criminal record for an assault that was shown on the first season of the MTV reality series. The 25-year-old New York City resident appeared Monday in New Jersey Superior Court in Toms River. Judge Stephanie Wauters told Ortiz-Magro that he'd be in the program for 18 months and asked if he'd be willing to do community service during that time. The Asbury Park Press reports that he said he would, though the judge did not specify what or how much. Ortiz-Magro was charged after a September 2009 fight outside a Seaside Heights nightclub. He and other cast members recently returned to Seaside Heights to film the show's fifth season.

Ex-Fox personality Glenn Beck is moving to Dallas

NEW YORK (AP)—Former Fox News Channel personality Glenn Beck is bound for Texas. Beck said Monday that he's relocating his family to Dallas, where his media company is building a new television and radio studio. Beck is starting a new online network, GBTV, on which he will beam a two-hour program each evening starting in late summer. He's continuing his syndicated radio show. The president of Beck's company, Mercury Radio Arts, says the move doesn't mean the company will be abandoning its studio and offices in New York. Beck doubled the ratings at his time slot almost immediately after joining Fox in January 2009. But critics persuaded advertisers to boycott his show last summer after he said President Barack Obama had "a deep-seated hatred for white people." His last show was in June.

Man held in Picasso theft to plead not guilty

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The attorney for a New Jersey man accused of snatching a Picasso drawing off the wall of a San Francisco art gallery says his client will plead not guilty. Mark Lugo appeared in court Monday for the first time since his arrest last week on suspicion of stealing the 1965 sketch, which was on sale at the Weinstein Gallery for more than $200,000. The San Francisco Chronicle reports that a judge agreed to a request from Lugo's attorney, Douglas Horngrad, to postpone his arraignment until Friday. Horngrad said he wants Lugo's $5 million bail reduced. The 30-year-old sommelier from Hoboken, N.J., is charged with grand theft, possession of stolen property and second-degree burglary. Police on Wednesday arrested Lugo in Napa, where they found the undamaged drawing stripped from its frame.

Atty: Man can't recall 'Late Show' theater episode

NEW YORK (AP)—The attorney for a man charged with smashing glass doors and breaking into the New York City theater where David Letterman tapes his television show says the man was drunk and doesn't recall the incident. James Whittemore was arraigned Monday on burglary and criminal mischief charges. His lawyer says the 22-year-old "certainly didn't plan this" and doesn't even remember how he got to the Ed Sullivan Theater early Sunday. A criminal court complaint says Whittemore used a metal stanchion to break several of the theater's glass doors. They say he did about $5,000 worth of damage at the closed theater. The complaint says pictures, fans, phones, and printers were among other items damaged. CBS and production company Worldwide Pants said the "Late Show" set wasn't harmed.

Pastor without compassion needs a come-to-Jesus talk

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: We have a problem—our pastor. He uses the pulpit to criticize, put people down and offers no compassion. A person can only take so much.

The problem is, if you say anything to him, you can bet the next sermon will be about what you discussed. How can I talk to him without making him angry?

ALL FIRE AND BRIMSTONE

DEAR A.F. AND B.: Your pastor's behavior gives new meaning to the term "bully pulpit." Rather than approach him yourself, you and others who feel as you do should take your complaint to the governing board of your church. And if that doesn't fix the problem, you should seriously consider finding another "flock" to join because it appears your shepherd has lost his way.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating "Claude" for eight months. We are planning a trip in the fall to visit his family's chateau in France. Claude has long legs and refuses to travel in coach because it's uncomfortable, so he will buy a business-class ticket for himself and a coach ticket for me.

While I'm grateful Claude is paying for my ticket, I feel that since we're a couple, we should travel together. I don't want to be upgraded to business class necessarily, but I'd like him to sit in coach with me. When I brought this up, he refused and is now calling me "ungrateful."

My feelings are hurt, and Claude can't understand why I am upset. My friends and family think he is acting rude and selfish. I can't help but agree. Do I have a right to be upset? I am so uncomfortable with this arrangement that I'm considering not even going.

NOT UNGRATEFUL IN SAN DIEGO

DEAR NOT UNGRATEFUL: San Diego to France is a LONG flight. It's a long time to expect a tall person to fold up like a praying mantis just so you won't be sitting alone in a coach seat on your way to an all-expense-paid vacation. Claude has good reason for wanting to sit in business class. So be a sport and offer to pay for an upgrade to business class and sit with him. I agree that you shouldn't be seated "10 paces behind him," and this way you would both be comfortable.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: When my husband, "Ken," proposed three years ago, he had a steady job with an income twice as high as mine. He was laid off before our wedding, but we went ahead with the marriage. After our wedding, Ken was unemployed for another year before finally finding a minimum wage job. After one year at that job, he was fired. He has since found another minimum wage position.

I am a young teacher. We live in an expensive part of the country. We struggle every day to pay for groceries, gas and other essentials. I wasn't raised to expect many frills in life and I am frugal, but there are certain things I always assumed I would have—a house of my own, children, a savings account. If I stay with Ken, I don't believe these things will ever be within my reach.

In all other ways, Ken is a wonderful man and I love him with all my heart. But is there ever a time when love isn't all you need?

SECOND THOUGHTS IN ASHEVILLE, N.C.

DEAR SECOND THOUGHTS: You and Ken have hit a rough patch early in your marriage, but millions of Americans are even worse off—out of work and have given up trying to find any.

When you married Ken you promised each other "for richer or poorer." This recession won't last forever and, in the meantime, you have a wonderful man you love with all your heart. Whether that's enough or not, only you can answer. But if you trade in this model, there are no 100 percent guarantees that the next one will be able to give you all you need, either. You may find that in order to get all you need, you'll have to do it on your own.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

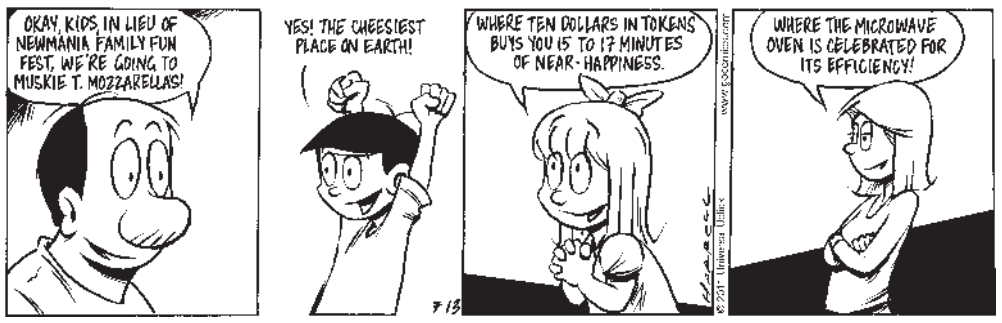
OKAY, CALVIN, WE'LL BE BACK IN A COUPLE OF HOURS.
YOU AND HOBBES JUST WATCH TV AND BE GOOD, OKAY?
DID YOU HEAR THAT? WE GET TO WATCH TV!
HOORAY!
VIDEORAMA? I'D LIKE TO RENT A VCR AND SOME MOVIES!
ASK IF THEY HAVE "ATTACK OF THE COED CANNIBALS."

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY, KIDS, IN LIEU OF NEWMANIA FAMILY FUN FEST, WE'RE GOING TO MUSKIE T. MOZZARELLAS!
YES! THE CHEESIEST PLACE ON EARTH!
WHERE TEN DOLLARS IN TOKENS BUYS YOU 15 TO 17 MINUTES OF NEAR-HAPPINESS.
WHERE THE MICROWAVE OVEN IS CELEBRATED FOR ITS EFFICIENCY!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Mary's pet
5 Sleepwear, for short
8 Commotions
12 Brit's exclamation
13 Debtor's letters
14 Domesticate
15 Made moist
17 Send forth
18 Lance
19 Crouches
21 Line of fashion?
24 Boom times
25 Auction actions
28 Asian desert
30 Animation frame
33 Historic time
34 Bolivian city
35 Guitar's cousin
36 Jewel
37 War god
38 Cruising
39 Pick a target
41 Profound
43 Jamaican music style
46 Blunder
50 Satan's specialty
51 Greek threatened by a sword
54 Flintstones' pet
55 Wildebeest
56 Aid
57 Lily variety
58 Tackle's teammate
59 Slithery

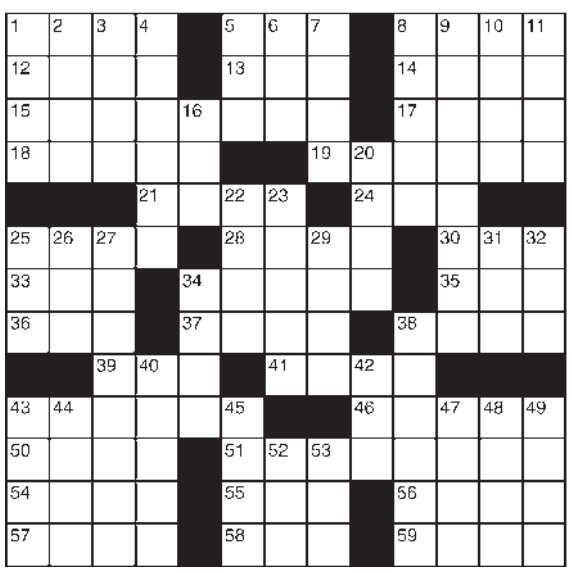
DOWN

1 Covers
2 Now, on a memo
3 Jerry Herman musical
4 Circumvent
5 Wrestling win
6 Scarborough of MSNBC
7 Lather
8 Enjoyed thoroughly
9 Syrian city
10 Leave out
11 Collections
16 Before
20 Classroom surprise
22 Culture medium
23 Segway alternative
25 Plead
26 Rage
27 Harmful
29 Diamond corner
31 — out a living
32 Meadow
34 Dalai —
38 Iraq War helicopter
40 Nome dome home
42 Id counterpart
43 Cincinnati team
44 1960s singer Sands
45 Rim
47 Run away
48 Toppled
49 Catch sight of
52 Massachusetts cape
53 Pie filling?

Solution time: 21 mins.

M	E	N	U	■	O	A	F	■	G	L	A	M
A	V	O	N	■	I	L	L	■	E	A	S	E
G	A	R	D	E	N	I	A	■	M	I	K	F
■	■	■	I	N	K	■	T	H	I	R	S	T
F	R	F	F	D	■	C	I	F	N	■	■	■
L	A	W	S	■	G	A	R	F	I	E	L	D
A	T	C	■	T	A	R	O	T	■	M	O	A
G	A	R	H	I	S	O	N	■	I	I	N	I
■	■	■	W	E	L	L	■	B	A	R	G	E
S	A	F	A	H	I	■	A	I	M	■	■	■
E	L	I	N	■	G	A	R	B	A	N	Z	O
R	A	N	D	■	H	I	M	■	L	O	A	N
A	R	E	A	■	T	R	Y	■	E	D	G	E

Yesterday's answer 7-13



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Cameron Crowe, 54; Cheech Marin, 65; Harrison Ford, 69; Patrick Stewart, 71.

Happy Birthday: Ongoing responsibilities must be dealt with to move forward. The changes you must make begin at home and in your personal life. Once you have stabilized your situation, you will be able to make any professional or financial moves required to fulfill your plans. Do your research, set your strategy and pursue a reasonable course of action. Your numbers are 5, 12, 16, 20, 27, 34, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Try to get along with everyone and focus on challenging prospects. A chance to make a lifestyle change will be based on how involved you become in a philosophy you investigate. Open-mindedness and discipline will be the keys to your success. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Work diligently toward a cause you believe in and it will improve your reputation, as well as bring you an interesting proposition. Don't go overboard when it comes to investments or indulgence. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Criticism can be expected. Take the comments to heart and you will be able to make improvements. You have to be more objective if you want to make the best long-term decisions. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You may be looking at the big picture, but the small, important details will end up making a difference. Trying to hold on to something you should have let go of a long time ago will make you unhappy, revengeful and stuck. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You will be able to call the shots if you step into the spotlight. A change at home may not be what you expect, but it will be to your advantage. Don't make a fuss over nothing; you will gain ground by letting things unfold naturally. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Your intuition will guide you in the right direction, but it won't initially be that easy to get things off the ground. Don't be discouraged—if you work hard you will have a better sense of what is required to reach your goal. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Uncertainty regarding your home and family can be expected, especially if you have been procrastinating. You may need to take a leap of faith to please someone you love. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You cannot and will not move forward if you keep refusing to make a decision. Let your imagination and intuition direct you. Waiting for someone else to make a move will lead to regrets. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Your energetic way of involving everyone in your plans will put you in a leadership position. You will be able to structure how you want things to flow and the outcome that will bring you the greatest rewards. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): A partnership opportunity will open a door that was closed in the past. Communication will be the key. The comments made will help you tweak your plans and ensure that no one will interfere with the outcome you are trying to achieve. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't believe everything you are told. You have a good head on your shoulders and must draw your own conclusion if you want to be respected by your peers. A mishap may occur if you promise too much or overdo it in any aspect of your life. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You aren't likely to get much accomplished if you fuss over every little detail. Take a break and consider letting someone else pick up the slack for a change. The more spontaneous you are in your pursuit of pleasure and happiness, the easier it will be to enhance your personal relationship. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You thrive on excitement and drama. You know how to attract and entertain an audience.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		4	2					
				6				
		9	8	7	5	3		
	5			1			6	
2								1
7								8
6								7
	1			4			5	
		8	9		2	4		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	8	9	6	4	3	1	7	2
4	1	6	5	7	2	8	3	9
7	3	2	9	1	8	4	5	6
6	5	1	4	9	7	3	2	8
8	9	3	2	5	6	7	1	4
2	4	7	8	3	1	6	9	5
1	6	8	7	2	5	9	4	3
9	7	5	3	8	4	2	6	1
3	2	4	1	6	9	5	8	7

Difficulty Level ★★ 7/12

©2010 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword

TANZANITE **Solution: 8 letters**

S	E	L	Y	T	S	P	E	R	I	H	P	P	A	S
P	P	S	P	R	E	P	A	R	A	T	I	O	N	U
A	T	E	G	N	O	I	T	C	A	R	F	E	R	R
R	I	C	C	N	E	T	A	C	I	L	I	S	I	F
K	F	A	L	T	I	E	A	L	E	W	E	J	N	A
L	F	L	R	E	R	T	V	R	R	A	V	E	G	C
I	A	K	A	F	A	U	C	R	O	M	I	C	S	E
N	N	C	R	T	I	V	M	E	U	B	T	D	C	M
G	Y	E	E	S	T	N	A	N	L	C	A	I	N	U
A	E	N	I	I	A	E	I	G	O	L	R	L	W	I
C	V	T	A	E	H	M	N	S	E	P	O	U	O	C
I	R	R	Ⓑ	Ⓛ	Ⓤ	Ⓔ	P	E	H	V	C	C	R	L
R	A	P	O	L	I	S	H	L	D	E	E	U	B	A
F	C	F	A	C	E	T	E	D	E	S	D	N	T	C
A	I	N	A	Z	N	A	T	A	H	S	U	R	A	S

© 2011 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Join us on Facebook 7/13

Africa, Aluminum, Arusha, Blue, Brown, Calcium, Carve, Cleavage, Collecting, Curve, Cuts, Decorative, Even, Faceted, Finished, Flattened, Heat, India, Jewel, Laboratory, Necklaces, Polish, Preparation, Price, Rare, Refraction, Rings, Samples, Sapphire, Silicate, Sparkling, Spectrum, Styles, Surface, Tanzania, Tiara, Tiffany

Yesterday's Answer: Driving

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

1 br. furnished apt. near MHS with AC in a quiet area off Texas Rd. 24hrs water & own washing machine, ceiling fans in all rooms. $375, water included. Call Ed 788-6268.

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used cars. Good condition. 2000 yr. & up. We pay cash! Pls. call 287-7676

FOR SALE

YAMAHA KEYBOARD (PSR S-900) includes: USB Flash Drive w/ program. $1,050.00/OBO. For more info pls call/text Rose(USSP)788-3913

WHATZIT Solution:
It cuts both ways

VACANCY

COURT SECURITY OFFICER
For the Federal Courthouse in Saipan.

Qualified Applicants must posses at least 3 years of verifiable experience as a certified law enforcement officer or its military equivalency.

If you are interested in applying for this position please email your resume to: csohori@hotmail.com Attn: Edwin F. Atalig, LCSO

FRIENDSHIP

U.S. Gentlemen. 60 yrs. Would like to meet a Thailand lady for companion. Possible Marriage.

Call: 789-4209

www.saipantribune.com

Need a ride going to work, school, and anywhere in the Island?

SONG TAXI SERVICE (24 hours)

TEL: (670) 285-6789 or (670) 285-6889

BUSH CUTTER REPAIR
Only **$30 Service Promo**
We buy & sell used bush cutters.
For lawnmower small engine
Please call **233-5641**
Open: 7 Day a Week • 9:00 AM-9:00 PM

MAKE-A-WISH
Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr., Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021. 233-6870
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
REPROGRAMMING OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT- RECOVERY FUNDS (AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009)

Program Year	Activity No.	Activity Type	Activity Name	Activity Status	Reprogram From	Reprogram to
2009	436	Public Facilities	Sinapalo Elementary School Public Facility	Ongoing	$57,607.40	
2009	411	Public Facilities	Chalan Kanoa Kios Ku Public Facility	Ongoing		$57,607.40
Total					**$57,607.40**	**$57,607.40**

The public is invited to provide written and oral comments on the proposed reprogramming. Written comments will be accepted no later than 4:30 p.m., August 12, 2011 at the main office in Garapan, Post Office Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950. Oral comments may be relayed to Jeannie P. Mafnas at telephone number (670) 234-7670, 6866, 7689, or 9447. Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations to submit comments may also contact Jeannie P. Mafnas at the telephone numbers above for assistance.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Chairwoman

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

Raymond M. and Lynette A. Sablan
P.O. Box 503474 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: 788-0939

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION TO APPOINT GENERAL GUARDIANSHIP FOR: **RAYNALYNN ATOIGUE SABLAN and LYNNARAY ATOIGUE SABLAN** Minor Children, by RAYMOND M. SABLAN and LYNETTE A. SABLAN Petitioners	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0294 **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on August 4th, 2011, at 9:30 a.m. in Courtroom 217 before Associate Judge Perry B. Inos.

Dated this 11th day of July, 2011.

Bernadita Sablan
Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
Call 235- NEWS
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
FRIDAY JANUARY 7, 2011
www.saipantribune.com 50¢
REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK
By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
Minor ended her campaign in the 2011 Goulburn Valley Junior Championships in Australia on a high note after capturing the doubles crown in the U18 division of the five-day tournament.
CROSSWORD
OKAY, BUDDY, WE'RE GOING TO A TUMBLING CLASS.

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

scalpel leplacs

WHATZIT? © 2011 www.whazit.com Distributed by Universal Uclick

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in this section

Cano wins Yankees-Red Sox HR showdown

PHOENIX (AP)—Robinson Cano thought about hitting the Miller Lite sign, a 472-foot drive off an advertisement a good 50 feet or more above and well behind the swimming pool at Chase Field.

"That was my favorite one I'm going to have that in my mind for the next two or three weeks. I wonder how far could it be, that in New York?" he said. "I got power."

In another Yankees-Red Sox showdown, Cano outslugged Adrian Gonzalez, 12-11, in the final round of the All-Star Home Run Derby on Monday night, even through his Boston rival made the biggest splash at Chase Field.

Batting last and being pitched to by his father, former Houston Astros pitcher Jose Cano, the New York second baseman batted second in the final round. Each hit 20 home runs through two rounds.

"As a kid, you dream to be up here with a bunch of guys that you watched back in the day, like Sosa, Griffey, McGwire, Giambi, how much fun they have," Robinson Cano said.

Again highlighting the dangers of trying to catch a ball at a big league ballpark, a fan standing on a table above the pool deck, Keith Carmickle of suburban Kingman, fell over trying to catch a Prince Fielder(notes) homer. The fan was grabbed by his brother before going all the way over, where he could have fallen about 20 feet. Carmickle was dangling when he was pulled back up.

"I stepped up on the table, I missed the ball by 2 or 3 feet and went over," he said. "We caught three balls and I told the guys I was going to go for the cycle. Dude, they were really holding onto me."

Last week, a 39-year-old fan, Shannon Stone, died while trying to catch a ball thrown into the stands at a Rangers game in Arlington, Texas.

Carmickle's brother grabbed his arms and Aaron Nelson of Chandler held his legs.

"He wasn't going down, I was holding on," Nelson said.

Carmickle said he wasn't worried while he was dangling.

"I bench-press 500 pounds, and I wasn't going down," he said.

Gonzalez hit a ball that wound up in the swimming pool in right field—along with Mike Moon, a 26-year-old fan who caught the ball before falling into the water, where he was surrounded by bikini-clad women.

"I saw the ball, I didn't want to spill my beer and I didn't spill my beer," he said. "I don't really remember what happened. I think I leaned forward, caught the ball, then fell like that (leaning backward). It was pretty cool."

With commercial breaks and other interruptions, the derby has become a three-hour affair that's so slow a regular-season game seems like an Olympic downhill ski race. Before a crowd of 44,820 on the night before the All-Star game, Major League Baseball said Cano set a final-round record.

Matt Thomas of Peoria, Ariz., caught Matt Holliday's second gold ball, hit deep into the left-field lower deck. The ball, with one panel infused with 24-karat gold leather, has a retail value of $149.99. Players were thrown gold balls when they had one out left.

AP

American League's Robinson Cano of the New York Yankees hits the winning home run at the MLB Home Run Derby Monday, July 11, 2011, in Phoenix.

"It just came right at me, and I reached up and grabbed, I played a little trick like I didn't have it," he said, making a tucking motion with his glove, "then went, oh, here it is. It's pretty cool."

Gonzalez and Cano were the most impressive hitters throughout, and they eliminated defending champion David Ortiz of the Red Sox and Milwaukee's Fielder (nine apiece) in the second round. St. Louis' Holliday (five), Toronto's Jose Bautista (four), Milwaukee's Rickie Weeks (three) and the Dodgers' Matt Kemp (two) didn't get past the opening round.

Jose Cano was 1-1 with a 5.09 ERA in three starts and three relief appearances in 1989—his only major league action.

"When he called me at home, that he wanted me to come to the United States because he's going to be in the Home Run Derby, I said, `I'll be happy to pitch to you, because that's what I do at home,"' Jose Cano said.

Weeks was booed by fans, upset he was picked for the derby over Arizona's Justin Upton. Fielder, who chose his derby teammates, was greeted with the loudest boos. He wound up in a tiebreaker to advance from the first round and went 5 for 5, including a 455-foot drive off the ballpark's back wall. He had the longest drive of the night at 474 feet and also hit a ball onto the pool deck area.

Fielder hit a drive over the right-field pool, off a "Diamond Club" sign, that bounded off a fan's head and sent a beer flying.

When Ortiz was down to his last out, stadium announcer Daron Sutton—son of Hall of Fame pitcher Don Sutton—urged him on by shouting, "Just picture Kevin Gregg on the mound," referring to last week's fight between the two. Ortiz, the defending champion, also advanced with the tiebreaker, eliminating Holliday.

For each homer with a gold ball, Major League Baseball and State Farm Insurance combined to donate $18,000 to the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. State Farm contributed $603,000 to charities as a result of the derby.

Halladay, Weaver get starting All-Star nods

PHOENIX (AP)—Pitching has again become the dominant force in baseball over the past couple of years, the hitters not standing much of a chance against all those arms.

With so many good pitchers out there, the managers for Tuesday's All-Star game almost couldn't go wrong.

They certainly won't get many complaints for choosing Philadelphia Phillies ace of aces Roy Halladay and Los Angeles Angels star Jered Weaver.

In an All-Star game missing some of its luster, these two reluctant, go-about-their-business studs seem like a perfect fit.

"When you talk about the great pitchers in our game today, the elite pitchers, or a pitcher that you would want to start in a game that you would have to win, Roy's name is always at the top of the list with just the incredible career that he's had," said San Francisco Giants manager Bruce Bochy, skipper of the NL team. "He's doing it again this year. This was really an easy one for me that he would start this game."

Picking Weaver wasn't exactly a tough decision for AL manager Ron Washington.

The lanky right-hander is having a superb season with an 11-4 record and a majors-best 1.86 ERA, but also had some of his competition for the starting nod get knocked out of the picture.

Major League Baseball doesn't allow pitchers who started on Sunday to participate in the Midsummer Classic, which meant Detroit's Justin Verlander, Seattle's Felix Hernandez(, Tampa Bay's James Shields and the Yankees' CC Sabathia were ineligible.

Still, the numbers Weaver has put up would have made him a strong candidate regardless of who the competition was.

The 29-year-old was an All-Star last season and has been even better this year, posting the lowest ERA ever by an Angels starter before the break.

Weaver has lasted at least seven innings during a nine-game stretch without a loss while winning five straight and has thrown four of his eight career complete games this season to become the first Angels pitcher to start an All-Star game since Mark Langston in 1993.

"I've never competed against a more competitive pitcher and a pitcher that will do anything it takes to make sure that he keeps his team in the ballgame," AL and Texas Rangers manager Ron Washington said.

Weaver is making his second appearance, but Halladay, one of the best pitchers of a generation, has made a habit of playing in the Midsummer Classic.

A two-time Cy Young Award winner, Halladay has made the All-Star team eight of the past nine years and will join Vida Blue, Roger Clemens and Randy Johnson as the only pitchers to start the game for both leagues after doing it with Toronto in 2009.

Even on a Phillies staff that includes Cliff Lee, Roy Oswalt, and Cole Hamels, Halladay has established himself as The Man, a dominating pitcher with no-hitter-in-the-waiting stuff.

The 34-year-old threw the second no-hitter in postseason history—with Don Larsen—in his first career playoff game against Cincinnati in last season's NL division series and has been nearly as dominant the first half of this season.

Halladay is 11-3 this season with a 2.45 ERA and 138 strikeouts, second-best in the NL. He became the first pitcher since 1991 to open a game with 18 strikes against the Mets on April 30, a start after matching his career high with 14 strikeouts against San Diego.

"You've got to be good, you've got to be having a good season and he's the best in the game, so if anybody's deserving of that (starting), it's him," said Lee, who joined Halladay on the NL team. "There's a few guys that were worthy of that spot, but I think Halladay is the best pitcher in baseball and I think 99 percent of the people in here would agree with that. It's an honor for him and I expect him to give us a chance to win."

This year's All-Star game lost some of its star power when 16 players backed out, including Alex Rodriguez, Derek Jeter, Ryan Braun, and Jose Reyes, just to name a few. One of the biggest names in baseball, Cardinals slugger Albert Pujols, also didn't get in because of a broken wrist.

There's still plenty of stars left, from the NL's Prince Fielder and Matt Holliday to Josh Hamilton, and Adrian Gonzalez for the AL, but the game has a little less shine than it once did.

Halladay and Weaver won't treat it any different.

Halladay has the perfect build—6-foot-6, 230 pounds—to be a dominating pitcher and an ultra-competitive drive to make himself one of the best pitchers in the game.

Weaver has plenty of leverage, too, along with hard-to-figure delivery and a simmering intensity behind that surfer-dude image of his.

On the worldwide stage of the All-Star game, neither one is about to ease up, whether they're facing A-Rod or the 16th replacement player on the roster.

"Obviously, (we're) having some success as far as pitching goes, but you never know what you're going to run into on any given night in a given lineup, so you can't take anything for granted," Weaver said.

Bochy and Washington certainly didn't take anything for granted by picking these two.

US women all the rage after epic win, face France

United States' Abby Wambach, left, is congratulated by United States' Megan Rapinoe after scoring their 2nd goal during the quarterfinal match between Brazil and the United States at the Women's Soccer World Cup in Dresden, Germany, Sunday, July 10, 2011. The U.S. won after penalties.

AP

DUSSELDORF, Germany (AP)— The U.S. women's soccer team shared the Yankee Stadium scoreboard with Derek Jeter, made an appearance on "Good Morning America" and can now count Tom Hanks, Lil Wayne and Super Bowl MVP Aaron Rodgers among their list of star-studded admirers.

Like Mia, Brandi and Foudy more than a decade before them, Hope, Abby and the rest of the Americans have become quite the sensation thanks to their performance at the World Cup, a rare turn in the spotlight for U.S. soccer that could produce another watershed moment in the game.

Now the trick is to keep it going.

The Americans play France in the semifinals Wednesday night. Win, and they'll face either Japan or Sweden in Sunday's final with a chance to become the first team to win three Women's World Cup titles.

"It's overwhelming. It's amazing," midfielder Carli Lloyd said Monday morning, still savoring the United States' epic victory over Brazil in a penalty shootout Sunday night. "The support and buzz back home is really awesome, and I think it's helping women's soccer. This could be a huge turning point for the growth of soccer back home, and that's what we're trying to do and trying to accomplish.

"Hopefully, as an added bonus, we come back with the cup."

Unlike the American men, for whom making it out of the group stage at the World Cup is a strong showing, the U.S. women have been soccer's dominant team for about as long as anyone can remember. They've won three of the four Olympic gold medals to go with their two World Cup titles. The 1999 squad was such a crossover hit that fans were on a first-name basis with Mia Hamm and Brandi Chastain - or last-name basis in Julie Foudy and Kristine Lilly's case—and soccer moms and dads alike turned out in droves with their kids, packing stadiums from coast to coast for that year's World Cup.

But U.S. fans can be a fickle bunch. They've become so accustomed to the women's success they yawn at anything less than a World Cup title, and the Americans haven't won soccer's biggest prize since that '99 squad did it. Haven't produced a team that comes close to duplicating that group's rock star appeal, either.

Until, perhaps, now.

"We're participating in something that's huge," said Abby Wambach, whose magnificent, leaping header in the 122nd minute Sunday sparked one of the most riveting finishes ever in a World Cup game - men's or women's. "Very few times does the spotlight shine so bright on women's soccer, and we want to prove to everybody around the world that we have a product and that product is worth watching."

The only thing Americans love more than a winner is one with "U-S-A" emblazoned on its chest, and the fact the women are a gritty, spunky bunch only heightens their appeal. Down a player for almost an hour, on the verge of their earliest World Cup exit ever, with Marta and the Brazilians pushing, shoving and whining for every call they could get, the U.S. responded with a can-do attitude that is uniquely—proudly—American.

After Wambach tied the game, Hope Solo denied the Brazilians in penalty kicks, her swat of Daiane's attempt so resounding it could be heard all the way back to the States.

With that, Americans from Hollywood to Hoboken, N.J., were hooked. FIFA said it was only the fourth time in World Cup history that a team came back to win after falling behind in extra time, and a first at the Women's World Cup.

"Go ahead, jump on the bandwagon and let's do this together," Solo said Monday on Twitter. "One Nation, One World, One Team."

ESPN's broadcast drew a 2.6 overnight rating, the best for a Women's World Cup game since 1999 and second only to that dramatic final at the Rose Bowl, when the Americans beat China on penalty kicks. The game was replayed on ESPN2 a few hours later, an honor reserved for "instant classics."

Hanks posted a picture of the team on Twitter, saying "I LOVE these women!" Ellen DeGeneres gushed, "The Women's World Cup game blew my mind today." Rodgers Tweeted his congratulations, adding, "Now let's get the cup ladies!!" Montages of Wambach's goal, and fans' reaction to it, popped up on YouTube.

The win was front-page news in USA Today, The Washington Post, The Miami Herald and The Wall Street Journal. "GMA" featured Wambach and Solo, and Ali Krieger, who buried the final penalty kick to seal the victory, chatted with MSNBC's "Morning Joe."

"It's just amazing that it's getting outside the soccer world," said Heather O'Reilly, who played 108 minutes three days after missing the final group game with a strained groin. "Soccer people have been following this World Cup and appreciate the game whether it's men's or women's. But now the general sports fan is really picking up on how special this team is and how special that win was. That's great."

The timing couldn't be better, either, with little else on the sports calendar to steal the women's thunder. Jeter picked up his 3,000th hit Saturday, and Tiger Woods is sitting out the British Open with a bum leg. The NFL lockout continues to drag on, and the only decision NBA players are making these days is whether to play overseas until their labor issues get settled.

"I'm hearing, 'I've never watched a soccer game before but now I'm watching them,'" said Shannon Boxx, who said her phone was "blowing up" with congratulatory texts and emails. "We're here to play and to have fun ourselves and to do well, but we're also here to promote women's soccer. You watch a game like that, and it's hard not to like soccer."

But as the U.S. men learned last year, this window to win people over is fleeting.

The Americans enjoyed unprecedented support during last summer's World Cup in South Africa, with fans filling bars at breakfast and tuning in at home in record numbers. When Landon Donovan scored 45 seconds into stoppage time against Algeria to send the Americans into the second round, the reaction was so spirited and jubilant it turned an ordinary workday into a de facto national holiday.

When the Americans fizzled against Ghana, however, so did the hype. People watched the rest of the tournament, but not with their original fervor.

"I woke up this morning, looked at my phone once again. Lots of buzz, e-mails," Lloyd said. "But as of now, we've got to put it behind us. I'm now turning my focus to France. Because we have to. We know that the time we can enjoy it is, hopefully, when we win this thing and we can look back at the history we've just created and the epic game and enjoy it. But it's very important for us to not get on too much of a high from this game because we have our business to take care of on Wednesday."

Lawyers in NFL labor dispute meet

NEW YORK (AP)— Less than two weeks before some training camps are scheduled to open, the NFL remains in labor limbo, with only the lawyers for both sides meeting.

Attorneys met Monday in New York to clarify language from previous discussions, and will do so again Tuesday. Originally, owners and players were to get together for more negotiations Tuesday, but now won't do so before Wednesday.

Several issues are close to resolution, the most significant being the split of total revenues between owners and players.

But snags involving a rookie wage scale, free agency rules and benefits for retired players have slowed the process. While the league's negotiators hope they can present a new collective bargaining agreement to all the owners at their July 21 meeting in Atlanta, not striking a deal before then figures to cause postponement of the start of training camps, and probably cancellation of the Hall of Fame game Aug. 7 in Canton, Ohio.

The St. Louis Rams and Chicago Bears are set to play in that game, and both teams planned to open training camp at the end of next week.

The NFL would need about a week to get the new deal ratified and in place, meaning teams couldn't start signing free agents or draftees, make trades or begin workouts until the end of the month. That would jeopardize the first weekend of exhibition games, Aug. 11-15, at a cost of upward of $60 million in overall revenues.

Commissioner Roger Goodell and several owners will negotiate with NFLPA executive director DeMaurice Smith and members of the players' executive board later this week. Extensive negotiations last Thursday and Friday seemed promising, but the parties were unable to close the gap on the rookie wage scale — a subject that wasn't nearly as contentious in earlier sessions.

At issue is how many first-round picks would fall under the wage scale, and the length of contracts teams could offer those rookies. The savings on salaries were supposed to go to veteran players and toward retirees' benefits.

Some player agents, particularly those who often represent high draft picks, have opposed a rookie wage scale, saying it eventually would limit earning power for all players.

One proposal, according to a person familiar with the negotiations, would limit the top overall pick to about $7 million a year for five years, with the option to renegotiate after the third year. Sam Bradford(notes) signed with St. Louis in 2010 for $78 million over six years, including a record $50 million in guaranteed money. Under that system, this year's first selection, Auburn quarterback Cam Newton, would have exceeded those numbers.

The person, who spoke on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press because details of the negotiations are supposed to be private, said minimum salaries for players in their first four years would increase from 17 percent in their first year to 12 percent in their fourth year.

The players insist that unrestricted free agency begin after four seasons, as it did before 2010 when there was a salary cap. Owners, naturally, prefer the six-year minimum in place in 2010 (without a salary cap), and also would like more than the one right-of-first-refusal transition tag they had under the previous CBA.

Each side remains divided on how a "legacy fund" for retired players would be financed, as well.

This week's talks will be held without Judge Arthur Boylan, the court-appointed mediator who is on vacation. He has ordered both sides to be in his court in Minneapolis on July 19 to continue negotiations while hoping a deal gets done before he returns.

Should negotiations last beyond July 19—or the owners' meeting two days later—that could lead to even deeper cuts in the preseason.

'Money ball' pays off for Man Amigos

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Thanks to "money ball," Man Amigos clinched their first championship in seven years after ruling last month's 2nd Chamolinian Softball Association/Budweiser Slow-Pitch Softball League.

"Money ball" is a coined phrase for Man Amigos' practice sessions, which are held once a week during softball season at the American Memorial Park.

During "money ball," every player gets to hit between 10 to 15 softballs. The last pitch is referred to as the "money ball" and the batter must run it out to first base. If the fielders force out the batter then that player has to donate a 12-pack of beer for next week's session.

By custom, players also relax with some cold brews at the beach after practices. After all, the name Man Amigos simply means a group of friends, in this case, softball warrior friends.

Joey Dela Cruz, Vinnie Sablan, Jeff Cabrera, and James Fleming have been Man Amigos for all seven years and besides the money ball practices, they credited their victory this season to a lot of roster experimentation and team dedication.

"We have been looking for the right mix of guys and this year worked out to be the right combination," Dela Cruz said.

Man Amigos won the Chamolinian championship against Natibu, topped the NMI Crimes Stoppers Softball Tournament, and fared well in most local weekend events.

"Coming into that game we had a momentum after knocking down Phat Boyz and we carried that to our next game. We also knew Natibu was an offensive powerhouse and that defense alone wouldn't win. Our mind set was to match them with our bats, and we did," Dela Cruz said.

"We matched everybody run for run and knew it would come down to who made the least mistakes. I am proud of the guys because they showed up in the clutch," he added.

Man Amigos advanced first to the finals after sweeping their playoff matches. Natibu followed suit and forced a deciding Game 2 when it won Game 1 of the finals, 29-25.

"After that game people thought the momentum shifted to their side and we knew we had to get it back as soon as possible. So we got really pumped up before the game and started early with an 8-0 lead. Being the visitors actually favored us because we wanted to score first and make them play catch up," Dela Cruz said.

Man Amigos strategy worked and they went on to take a title-clinching win in Game 2, 22-21.

"When the first out came early, we started to taste it (championship). We caught some sweat as it took a while to squeeze that last out, but we knew we could do it," said Dela Cruz.

"It was a great run. All our recent successes were worth the wait. We played against a lot of good teams this year," he added.

WALTER CEPED SUTHERLAND

Man Amigos celebrate after winning the 2nd Budweiser Slow-Pitch Softball League men's championship against Natibu at the Capital Hill Ballfield last month.

MAKE

From Page 28

still advance to next round with a head-to-head win over Guam.

By rule, the head-to-head result serves as the tiebreaker, so if CNMI sluggers win, they are in and would most likely face defending champion and Pool A top finisher Chinese Taipei (4-0) in tomorrow's playoffs.

The CNMI got off to a rousing start in the ASPAC when it shut out the Philippines last Saturday, 10-0, before absorbing back-to-back losses at the hands of Korea (0-8) and Hong Kong (5-8).

After showing early signs of success in its first game, the Commonwealt's offense stalled in the next two matches. The team did mount a five-run comeback attempt late in its last match against Hong Kong and hopes to build on that momentum in today's game.

"We batted through the line up right out of the gate because the boys were so excited upon arrival. Then our next two games started a bit earlier, which may have played a factor in the slump, but the late surge in against Hong Kong was a good sign and we hope it carries over against Guam," assistant coach George Camacho said in a team meeting yesterday.

"We are going to stick to our game plan and have readied our pitching rotation," Camacho added.

Head coach Randall Aguon added playing against their rival will be a good motivation for the team.

"The team is healthy and strong. We are regrouping today and they are anxious to compete come game time. The rivalry will also wake them up," Aguon said.

In its first three games, CNMI's pitching has been its strongest component and its offense has shown signs of success, although inconsistent.

Facing a must-win situation, the Commonwealth may delve deep into its bench, which includes the Saipan Little League's Top 3 batters—Cedric Camacho, Perry Celis, and Juan Quitugua—who have been mysteriously conserved in the first three matches. CNMI plans on giving the ball to pitchers Nathan Camacho and Franco Nakamura in today's bout against Guam.

Meanwhile, in other results yesterday, Taipei knocked off Thailand 13-3; New Zealand took down Singapore, 7-3; and Australia beat Indonesia, 13-1, in four innings. Taipei takes on Indonesia today 8:30am; Korea faces the Philippines at 9am; Thailand challenges Singapore at 11am; and Australia battles New Zealand at 1:30pm.

A win over Thailand will give Singapore the second semis berths in Pool A, while a loss coupled with Australia's victory over New Zealand will create a three-way tie for the last playoff seat.

MANCAO

From Page 28

tactical race moves, explosive workouts, and core exercises," said Mancao, who also joined a couple of Guam races and has one more coming up this week.

"I had a criterion race last week with a distance of 35 miles (15 laps). The course was flat and it had narrow sharp turns. I was in the peloton controlling the group, but after the 10thlap, I broke away from the group. I led the race for three laps and was then caught up by the chase group. I joined the lead group for our last lap and I felt good, as I was a contender in the sprint finish. However, I pulled a muscle. I tried my best to stay with the group but my muscle felt like tearing, so I finish the last lap 200m behind the lead group," the Marianas High School student said.

Mancao ended up making it to the Top 15, as he decided to hold back to prevent further damage to his legs.

"I don't want to get injured and not be able to train for the remaining weeks before the China tournament. Overall, my coach was impressed with my performance and this gave us something to work with in the remaining weeks. The next race course has lot of hills and I'm looking forward to this type of race," he said.

Mancao added he must train harder for the University Games, as he is expected to face tough competitors in China.

"I am feeling a lot of pressure going into the Games this August. I was told that other countries will be sending athletes who had already participated in the youth Olympics and junior world championships. However, my coach gave me clear instructions to focus on my race and give my best effort," the 2010 Micronesian Games bronze medalist in triathlon said.

WAIT

From Page 28

mated the cost of the Pacific Games participation at $1,800 per delegate and the CNMI has listed 28 athletes for baseball, according to the Pacific Games Council website.

The list include Tyrone Omar, Jerome Delos Santos, Byron Kaipat, Peter Tomokane, Franco Flores, Manny Sablan, Ryan Ada, Elton Santos, Joshua Jones, Vince Cepeda, Thomas Joab, Harry Nakamura, Nokki Saralu, Juan Maratita, Jesus Iguel, Eric Tenorio, Eli Aughenbaugh, Craig Sanchez, Jester Garcia, Justin Alexander, Jeremy Rabauliman, Jesse Mesa, Michael Pangelinan, Nathan Guerrero, Keoni Lizama, Marvin Ngeskebei, McGarette Duenas, Miguel Iguel, Kevin Kapileo, Jesse Garcia, and Robert Bansil. However, the list is not official, as final rosters of participating teams are only due at the technical committee meeting in New Caledonia on Aug. 27. Countries were required to submit entries by names on June 28 and athletes not on the list will not be allowed to compete.

Majority of the players the CNMI listed were members of the Commonwealth squad that won the silver medal in the 2010 Micronesian Games. Several of them were also part of the team that beat Guam in the gold medal match in the 2006 Micronesian Games on Saipan and others are from the Saipan Little League program.

Igitol said they are hoping to raise enough money to allow CNMI players to compete against the region's best in Noumea. Besides the CNMI, five other countries are entered in the baseball tournament—American Samoa, Fiji, New Caledonia, Guam, and Palau.

The group is holding a series of fundraisers for the New Caledonia trip. SML has scheduled a tournament later this month, while players will be selling raffle tickets with the draws to be held mid August. Hot lunches will also be sold from July 15 to 29. SML also welcomes support from local businesses.

For more information about the fundraising tournament, contact Tony Rogolifoi at 288-5426.

AYE

From Page 28

Party Rockers got off to jackrabbit starts to dictate the tempo of the separate games early en route to easy wins.

In the curtain-raiser, Aye Par Battay led by 15 at halftime, 36-21, as the Jamie Mendoza-led squad capitalized on a depleted Mix-A-Lot crew.

Mendoza had eight of her 14 points in the first half, as she and Nicole Arborilas made things happen for Aye Par Battay. Arborilas tallied 10 markers in the first 20 minutes of play and finished with 14 points, her best offensive game so far in the four-team league.

Aye Par Battay extended the lead in the second half, as other players stepped up. In contrast, only Mercedes Mesa and Lalaine Pagarao scored consistently for Mix-A-Lot, allowing the team to fall behind by as much as 21 points in the second half.

The victory was second in row for Aye Par Battay against Mix-A-Lot, as the former won their first round encounter early this month, 63-52. When they met for the first time this season, Aye Par Battay had only five players and was down to four mostly in the second half when Mendoza got injured, but Mix-A-Lot lost the game in the end. In the second round, tables turned this time when Mix-A-Lot's showed up for the match with only five players.

In the second game, Jeraldine Castillo sizzled for 26 points to lift Party Rockers to an 11-point victory over the winless Lazy Buttsss (0-4).

The Party Rockers' lead ballooned to as high as 20 points in the closing minutes of the first half, as Castillo and Kaylani Lebria anchored the teams' attack. Lebria hit three triples in the first half and had 15 in that canto, while Castillo chipped in 12 for Party Rockers' 47-29 halftime lead.

The Lazy Buttsss picked up its scoring in the second half behind the outside sniping of Elilai Pialug and inside baskets of Ira Palero. However, Castillo answered with her own scoring spree in the second half to foil Lazy Buttsss' bid to make it to the win column.

Palero led the Lazy Buttsss' losing cause with her 28 points, while Pialug contributed 22.

First Game

Aye Par Battay 64 – Arbolilas 14, Mendoza 12, Williams 10, Ito 8, M. Castillo 8, K. Ito 6, Bartolo 5.

Mix-A-Lot 45 – Mesa 21, Pagarao 14, Iriarte 6, De Luna 4, Manesa 2.

Scoring by halves: 36-21, 64-45.

Second Game

Party Rockers 77 – Castillo 26, Lebria 19, Johnson 10, Ito 6, Abrams 6, Gozon 6, Samson 4.

Lazy Buttsss 66 – Palero 28, Pialug 22, Joseph 9, Javier 2.

Scoring by halves: 47-29, 77-66.

2nd QQ Car Rental Cup Invitational Basketball League

PHOTOS BY WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Blue Haus' Dave Sablan goes for a reverse layup against Konflikt defenders during a regular season game in the 2nd QQ Car Rental Cup Invitational Basketball League at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Rollers' Manny Matagolai pulls up for a jumper during a regular season game against Konflikt.

The Sonics' Leo Galarse goes for a layup against Mobil's Gyles Ruluked.

Mobil's Ron Gamboa, right, challenges the defense of the Sonics' Won Joo Jung in a fastbreak play.

Ferrera Builders' Noel David goes for a fastbreak layup during a playoff game against Mobil.

Blue Haus' Edwin Santos looks for a teammate to pass the ball to.

Prospects' Glenn Aquino, left, pulls up for a jumper against Konflikt's Badong Camacho.

Smart Cagers' Errol Peredo, center, gets a medal for claiming the All-Star Game MVP award.

The QQ Cup Mythical Team Selection, from left, the Sonics' Pedro Lizama, Smart Cagers' Darwin Barbo and Pete Iguel and Mobil's Marvin Rabauliman and Jun Estolas.

Blue Haus' Rodney Sacramento, center, gets the best in steals award.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Make-or-break game for CNMI

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
The CNMI All-Stars' Juan Quitugua pitches against Hong Kong during their game in the 2011 Asia-Pacific Major Division Regional Championship last Monday at the Northern Region Sports Complex in Dededo, Guam.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

GUAM—The CNMI All-Stars face Guam in a must-win game today in the 2011 Asia-Pacific Major Division Regional Championship at the Northern Region Sports Complex in Dededo.

The Commonwealth youth sluggers had a bye yesterday and spent it mostly resting up at the hotel in preparation for the big showdown with their island neighbor. A larger crowd is expected to witness the do-or-die game between the longtime rivals at 11:30am

Guam defeated the Philippines, 14-3, in yesterday's opener and improved its card 2-1 for second place in Pool B behind the undefeated Korea (3-0), which is assured of the first semis slot in the group after shutting out Hong Kong (1-3), 10-0. The CNMI completes Pool B and holds a 1-2 slate for a tie for third place with the Philippines (1-2), but would

See MAKE on Page 26

Aye Par Battay, Party Rockers stay on top

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Aye Par Battay, Party Rockers started the second round of the 2011 BANMI Women's Summer Basketball League with separate wins Monday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

In the first game, Aye Par Battay topped Mix-A-Lot, 64-45, to improve to a 3-1 record in the three-round robin competition. Party Rockers hold the same slate and share the lead with Aye Par Battay, following a 77-66 triumph over the Lazy Buttsss in the second match of the night.

Both Aye Par Battay and

See AYE on Page 26

Party Rockers' Rachel Abrams, right, fakes off the defense of Mix-A-Lot's Madeleine Alegre during their game in the first round of the BANMI women's league last week at the TSL Sports Complex. Party Rockers lost, but recovered with a 77-66 win over the Lazy Buttss Monday night. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Wait-and-see mode for CNMI sluggers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Nothing is definite yet as far as the CNMI's participation is concerned in the baseball competition in the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia next month.

Saipan Major League's Rose Igitol said during the NMASA meeting last week at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium that they are still looking for funds for the trip to the French territory.

NMASA had earlier esti-

See WAIT on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI's Juan Maratita tries to tag out a Palau runner at third base during their game in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau. Both the CNMI and Palau have listed players for the baseball competition in the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia.

Mancao preps up for World University Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI athlete Matthew Mancao is still in Guam, but he has been preparing for the 2011 Summer Universiade or FISU's World University Games for the past months.

"I will return to Saipan on Aug. 4 after my classes at the University of Guam and will meet Rezne Wong and NMASA's Mike White on Aug. 5 for our flight to Shenzhen, China," Mancao said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

The 21-year-old CNMI athlete will be competing in the 160-kilometer cycling road race in the Summer Universiade, which will run from Aug. 11 to 23. Mancao's event is scheduled on Aug. 12, so he has less than a week to get acclimated in Shenzhen and try the course at the Longgang Sports Center.

"Once we get ourselves settled in, it is very important for me familiarize the race course. Preparing for this event has been a struggle as I am juggling training, work, and school at the same time. Jazy Garcia has been coaching me this past few months. He has been pushing me every workout and I appreciate the time he is putting in during my training sessions. We've been doing motor pacing, hill intervals, sprints, distance rides,

See MANCAO on Page 26

Matt Mancao, seen here slowing down as he nears the finish line of the triathlon event in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau, is leaving for Shenzhen, China next month for the 2011 Summer Universiade. ROSELYN B. MONROYO